FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force attacked another ship in the Gulf on 16 January, hitting a "large maritime target" near Khark Island, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Monitored Iranian media have not mentioned any such attack.

Lebanon

Israel and Lebanon have agreed to continue the Al-Naqurah negotiations, which may resume on 21 January, according to UN sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. Earlier, Jerusalem radio disclosed that the talks scheduled for 17 January had been cancelled. In Damascus, UN Under Secretary Brian Urquhart discussed the Lebanese situation with the Syrian foreign minister, Damascus television noted. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that if a massacre occurs in the wake of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, the Lebanese Government will be "directly" responsible for it and the United Nations will be "indirectly" responsible, ITIM reported. In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres again called on the Syrians and Lebanese to rethink their positions and enter negotiations for Israel's border security and internal order in the south.

As for the security situation in Beirut, Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced new measures to curb the "anarchy" in the western sector in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio following a lengthy Cabinet meeting on the subject. The measures provide for the closure of many party offices, leaving each organization with only one central office; the collection of heavy weapons and withdrawal of gunmen; the demolition of the remaining bunkers and barricades, and the removal of "political cover" for security violators. Karami noted that the Cabinet session also dealt with the security plan for the Al-Kharrub region, where the Army had earlier extended its deployment southward toward the Bisri bridge, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

In another development, *AL-NAHAR* cited an Islamic Jihad organization statement denying responsibility for the recent killing of two French observers in southern Beirut, while noting that the Jihad does not oppose such methods which "we support and encourage." Meanwhile, French observers returned to their posts in Al-Shuwayfat and the Murr Tower, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Israel

Relations With Egypt — The Israeli ambassador in Cairo, in a report cited by Jerusalem radio, announced that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has asked his Egyptian counterpart to intervene in securing a Lebanese-Israeli settlement. The radio noted that this request and Egyptian willingness to discuss disputed issues, including the Sinai debt, are signs of a thaw in relations with Egypt 10 days before the Tabah talks start.

Law of Return — The Knesset defeated the religious lobby's draft resolution amending the Law of Return's definition of who is a Jew to only recognize Orthodox conversions to Judaism, Jerusalem radio reported. Following a SHAS Knesset member's resignation from the coalition, SHAS leader Yitzhaq Peretz said his faction will not cause a "government crisis," according to IDF radio.

Rocket Attacks — In the wake of reports that a katyusha rocket was fired 15 January at the Jordan Valley from Jordanian territory, Defense Minister Rabin, in remarks broadcast by IDF radio, called on Jordan to "do more" to prevent terrorist fire. The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, in a statement cited by Radio Monte Carlo, claimed responsibility for firing a rocket at an Israeli Golan Heights settlement on 15 January.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak's official talks with his Greek counterpart opened with a discussion of regional issues and bilateral relations, according to Cairo radio.

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PLO Executive Committee, PNC Chairmanship To Meet
JN161546 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tunis, 16 Jan (INA) — The PLO Executive Committee will hold a joint meeting with the PNC chairmanship in Tunis in the next 2 days.

Responsible Palestinian sources told the INA correspondent that during their joint meeting the Executive Committee and the PNC chairmanship will study the outcome of Yasir 'Arafat's recent tour of several Arab countries and the results of the visits by two PLO Executive Committee delegations, the first to the PRC and a number of Asian countries under 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, ALF secretary general and PLO Executive Committee member, and the second to the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia under PLO Executive Committee member Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

The sources explained that discussion will also deal with the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue and putting the final touches on the stand toward King Husayn's proposal. The discussion will also deal with the Palestinian national unity issue.

AL-KHALIJ on Formation of New Front Within PLO
GF161400 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 15 Jan 85 P 1

[Exclusive report from Damascus]

[Text] The members of the Palestinian National Alliance are continuing their dialogue with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the PLO, and a number of Palestinian people on establishing a wide national front within the framework of the PLO without being a substitute for it.

This has been stated to *AL-KHALIJ* by (Samih Abu Kuwayk), alias Qadri, secretary general of the Fatah temporary leadership.

He said: "The PFLP agrees on this and there is a serious move to establish it." Continuing, he said: "The PFLP Political Bureau will hold a meeting on Thursday. It will discuss the issue of a broad front."

Qadri affirmed that the front will not substitute for the PLO. It will be the actual leadership of the organization. It has basically become an ideological leadership since the fighting organizations have joined the PLO. It includes the general secretaries, the members of the Executive Committee, and the chairman of the council.

AL-FAJR on Supposed U.S.-USSR Mideast Agreement
JN161918 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1604 GMT 16 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New U.S.-Soviet Agreement," the Jerusalem paper *AL-FARJ* says: Some newspapers have recently written about a U.S.-Soviet agreement to hold negotiations aimed at solving the Middle East crisis. If this is true, it will be the first of its kind concerning this crisis, especially since the various U.S. Administrations rejected the principle of any Soviet participation in any Middle East solution.

As we support the convening of an international conference attended by the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as by all the parties concerned, including the PLO, under the auspices of the United Nations, we necessarily support this new U.S.-Soviet agreement if it is aimed at convening such an international conference and if it can be considered a beginning of cautious efforts to stimulate a serious international interest in the Middle East crisis and the Palestine quesiton in particular.

It is taken for granted that reports on such a U.S.-Soviet agreement will add nothing new to the overall political developments in the region unless these reports are converted from perishable news items into a continued political action. In fact, there is no barrier or obstacle regarding this vision on the basis of a Palestinian political deployment at the international level. In a statement to the Egyptian newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* last week, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, said that nobody rejects dialogue with the United States, explaining his support for holding a dialogue between the PLO and the United States on the one hand, and the existence of a great difference between holding such a dialogue with the United States and taking action in the interest of the United States on the other.

We believe that the United States insists on continuing its hostility toward the rights of the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership represented by the PLO. We also believe in the inevitability of a dialogue with all the parties despite the most difficult and dangerous circumstances.

PPSF Claims Responsibility for Settlement Attack
JN161933 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has issued a statement in Damascus claiming responsibility for firing a rocket at an Israeli settlement in the Golan Heights. The statement added that several Jews, including Falasha elements, who were being trained to use weapons, have been either killed or wounded.

The statement said that the operation took place last night and was carried out by the martyr 'Izz al-Adin al-Qassam group and that the operation was in response to Israeli raids against one of the PPSF bases in Al-Biqa'.

PLO Radio Reports Three Resistance Operations
JN162113 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The operations of the joint Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men are continuing against the Zionist invasion forces and their agents in occupied southern Lebanon.

The resistance men detonated high-explosive charges under a Zionist military patrol while it was passing at the (Kafr Suna) crossroad in the southern Jazzin region. The explosion destroyed a military half-track and killed or injured its occupants. Eyewitnesses said that helicopters were seen evacuating the dead and injured Zionists.

The invasion forces spokesman admitted this daring operation, but he declined to mention his losses. He said that the Israeli forces are still on maximum alert fearing attacks against Israeli positions by the resistance men.

The resistance men also detonated explosive charges under a jeep of the so-called army of southern Lebanon while it was passing through Batir Pass in the mountainuous Al-Shuf region toward the Jazzin area. The explosion completely destroyed the agent car and killed or injured its occupants. The Zionist spokesman also admitted this operation, but declined to mention his losses

He said that the Israeli forces cordoned off the area and staged a large-scale search campaign for the resistance men, who withdrew safely to their bases.

The joint Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men carried out a heroic and daring operation the day before yesterday when they set off two explosive charges near the town of Al-Zrariyah in the Al-Zahrani region. As a result of this operation, 6 Zionist soldiers were killed and 39 others were injured.

In another development, and in the wake of the escalation of the operations of the joint Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men, the Zionist invasion forces have imposed a tight siege on Al-Zrariyah, (Darzi), and Al-Khara'ib in occupied southern Lebanon since yesterday morning. They arrested 100 persons who were transferred to detention camps on the pretext of interrogating them following the double explosive operation by the joint Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men.

KUNA: OPEC Pricing Committee To Meet 20 Jan

LD171038 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Jan (KUNA) — High-level official Gulf oil sources stated here today that an important meeting of experts from the seven countries which are members of the OPEC committee, whose task it is to make an appraisal of the price differentials of heavy and light crudes, will be held in Riyadh this Sunday under the chairmanship of the Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

The official sources told KUNA that it has been decided to convene a meeting of experts from the seven countries that are members of the differential prices committee — Kuwait, Qatar, Algeria, Nigeria, the UAE, Libya, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — to prepare technical details concerning the appraisal of price differentials between various types of crudes.

The sources said that this meeting which will be held under the chairmanship of Shaykh Yamani, who is the chairman of the committee, will be attended by the Nigerian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Tam David-West.

OPECNA: Marketing Experts To Meet in Geneva 25 Jan

LD161949 Vienna OPECNA in English 1615 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Vienna, 16 Jan 85 (OPECNA) — Marketing experts from from OPEC member countries of the ministerial monitoring committee will meet in Geneva on 25 January. Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources, chairs the ministerial monitoring committee whose other members are the oil ministers of Algeria, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq and Libya.

The monitoring committee meets on 26 January, while the ministerial committee on price differentials meets the next day, 27 January. Both meetings will take place in Geneva. On Monday, 28 January, an extraordinary meeting of the OPEC conference will also convene in Geneva.

Saudi Oil Official Discusses Options If Hormuz Closed

GF161702 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Dubai, Jan 16 (WAKH) — The establishment of an oil pipeline via Oman or the UAE, to be used in case the Strait of Hormuz was obstructed, should be viewed from the technical, economic, political and strategic point of view, Governor of the Saudi Petroleum and Minerals General corporation (PETROMIN) Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Hassan Tahir said.

"Oilfields are not similar and the quality of oil is also different, so we could not build one pipeline to transport all kinds of crudes since each oil has its own specifications," Dr Tahir said. "We should distinguish between the heavy, medium and light crudes, one variety for export and another for other issues."

In an interview published today by *AL-BAYAN* newspaper Dr Tahir said that such a project needs detailed studies which have not yet been made in the region.

The establishment of a gas network linking the six-nation Arab Gulf Cooperation Council is a major project that will precede a larger network to provide consumers with their oil and gas needs since Qatar owns one of the world's largest gas fields, he pointed out.

On the Saudi and other OPEC members stand toward the escalation of the war of oil prices, Dr Tahir expressed his conviction that OPEC countries are to some extent in a secure position if they managed to maintain a low rate of production and not to violate OPEC's resolutions. OPEC is in a distinguished and good position, he stressed.

BAHRAIN

Iranian Majlis Delegation Received by Amir

GF161840 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received at Al-Rifa' Palace yesterday an Iranian Majlis delegation led by Hoseyn Sobhani-Neya, member of the Iranian Majlis and member of the Foreign Relations Committee. The delegation includes 'Ali Reza 'Asri, member of the Majlis and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and Hoseyn Sadiqi, from the Iranian Foreign Ministry. They came to greet the amir on the occasion of the delegation's visit to Bahrain.

Present at the meeting were Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Ibrahim 'Ali Ibrahim, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abbas Shakohi, Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

The Iranian Majlis delegation arrived in the country the day before yesterday on a 3-day visit to Bahrain.

Received by Foreign Minister

GF161842 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah received in his office at the ministry yesterday an Iranian Majlis delegation led by Hoseyn Sobhani-Neya, member of the Iranian Majlis and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The delegation includes 'Ali Reza 'Asri, member of the Majlis and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and Hoseyn Sadiqi, from the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and the current developments in the region were discussed.

U.S. Navy Chief Received by Heir Apparent

GF161740 Manama Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of Bahrain Defense Force, received in Rifa' today Admiral James Watkins, chief of U.S. naval operations, and members of the delegation accompanying him who came to hold talks on the occasion of their visit to Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Mubahhad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Staff Brigadier Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff; Mr Donald Leidel, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain; and Staff Lieutenant Colonel Shaykh Ahmad ibn Salman Al Khalifah, assistant chief of staff for reconnaissance and security.

The heir apparent and the U.S. admiral exchanged memorial presents on this occasion.

OMAN

Deputy Prime Ministers Receive UK's Luce

GF161414 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] His Highness Fahar ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, received in his office at Bayt Al-Falaj this morning Richard Luce, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting discussions were held on the firm bilateral relations between the two countries and issues of mutual interest.

His Highness Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received in his office at noon today Richard Luce, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs. The meeting was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying him and the British ambassador to the Sultanate. The good relations between the two friendly countries and ways to strengthen cooperation between them in various sectors, as well as current international issues of mutual interest, were discussed.

Holds Press Conference

GF161720 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] British Minister of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Richard Luce held a press conference at the Al-Ghubrah guest palace today. During the press conference he dealt with Omani-British relations, the meetings of the joint Omani-British committee, the situation in the Gulf region, the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese issue, efforts being exerted to reach to a solution to the Middle East problem, and Britain's stance toward those issues.

Richard Luce delivered a speech at the press conference and expressed his appreciation to the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus for giving the British delegation the opportunity to visit the Sultanate.

Richard Luce said that he held very useful talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id during his meeting with his majesty yesterday and with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah on international affairs. He expressed his belief that it is for the two countries' benefit to establish firm relations between them so that they can exchange views on all the problems and issues, including the Iraq-Iran conflict, the situation in the Gulf region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and relations between East and West.

He said: We discussed many problems on the international level. He expressed his belief that the joint Omani-British committee is a good example for the existence of strong relations and bonds between the two countries.

Answering a question on the nature of the relations between the Sultanate and Britain and the extent of their development in the

future, Luce said that the number of visits made by officials of both countries, in addition to the activities of the joint committee, reflects the remarkable bonds of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He said that his country gives importance to its relations with the Sultanate because they are historic relations, and that his country desires to bolster those relations.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-NADWAH Reports F-15 Fighters Deal With U.S.

GF161402 Doha QNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Mecca, 16 Jan (QNA) — Press reports indicated here today that the U.S. State Department has decided to put forward the date of presenting its recommendations with regard to the delivery of 40 F-15 fighters to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

AL-NADWAH, the newspaper which carried this report, said that "despite the fact that no exact date has been set yet, this is expected to take place next month."

Quoting well-informed sources in Washington, the paper said U.S. President Ronald Reagan personally approved this step in a meeting attended by Secretary of State George Shultz, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, and U.S. Presidential Adviser for National Security Robert McFarlane.

UAE

President Receives Message From PRC Counterpart

GF161436 Doha QNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Jan (QNA) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from PRC President Li Xiannian pertaining to bilateral relations and to an invitation for his highness to visit the PRC.

The message was received by Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the president's court during a meeting today with Zhao Menghua,the PRC charge d'affaires to the UAE, who had presented his credentials as ad interim PRC charge d'affaires in Abu Dhabi at the UAE Foreign Ministry in order to supervise the measures designed to open the PRC Embassy until a PRC ambassador is accredited.

The UAE and the PRC decided to establish diplomatic relations between them as of 1 November 84.

France To Deliver 20 Mirage Combat Planes

NC161356 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Paris, Jan 16 (AFP) — The French aircraft manufacturer Dassault plans to deliver an additional 20 Mirage 2,000 combat planes to Abu Dhabi in exchange for some 15 million tonnes of oil, several sources said here today.

Dassault, which received an order for 18 mirage 2,000 jets from Abu Dhabi in 1983, is also about to supply Saudi Arabia with several dozens of the planes.

Under the new arrangement with Abu Dhabi, the French oil company CFP-TOTAL will lift all or part of the oil specified in the contract, sources said. TOTAL already operates several oil wells in the country. Officials at both Dassault and TOTAL today refused to comment on reports of a new deal.

A contract with Saudi Arabia could be concluded over the next few months, according to sources here, with the planes purchased partly for the Saudi Air Force and partly for another unspecified country.

The Mirage 2000, which can be equipped with several missiles, joined the French Air Force last July. Greece has announced its intention to buy 40 of the jets, while India has likewise ordered 40, Peru 26 and Egypt 20.

PDRY

Lebanon's Junblatt Received by Head of State

GF161528 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received today at his office at the YSP Secretariat Brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, and chairman of the Lebanese National Democratic Front; and Brother 'Asim Qansu, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon.

During the meeting they reviewed the struggle relations between the YSP and the Lebanese national movement; current developments in the Lebanese and [words indistinct] arena; and the importance of strengthening the role and status of the Arab liberation movement, its powers, and its progressive organizations against imperialist Zionist plots.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reiterated PDRY support for the struggle of the fraternal Lebanese people for liberating the Lebanese territories from Zionist occupation, and preserving their sovereignty, unity, and Arabism. He hailed the heroic role of the National Democratic Front in confronting the Zionist occupation in southern Lebanon and in foiling the separatist plot aimed at undermining Lebanese unity and Arabism.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad affirmed that the struggling alliance among the Lebanese national powers, the Palestinian resistance, and Syria was and still represents the special resistance to the imperialist, Zionist plots. He said that this alliance is supported by PDRY and all the progressive powers and regimes in the Arab homeland and the world.

For his part, Brother Walid Junblatt expressed pleasure over his visit to the PDRY and his meeting with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. He said that the Lebanese national movement and

the Lebanese people appreciate the firm, supportive stand of the PDRY's people and government and the YSP for the struggle of the Lebanese people against the plots of imperialism and Zionism and their agents which are aimed at dividing Lebanese unity. He expressed confidence that the Lebanese struggle will achieve victory. He said that the national alliance among the Lebanese national powers, Syria, and the Palestinian resistance will remain the main steadfastness factor against the imperialist, Zionist, aggressive goals in the region.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

Blames Israel for Beirut Explosions

NC161906 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt, who is in Aden, today attacked Israel, accusing it and its agents of placing explosives and booby-trapped cars in West Beirut. He threatened to retaliate and put an end to such actions as soon as possible, saying that he has sufficient means to retaliate. Junblatt warned Israel against staying in Beirut, saying that the resistance in the south will continue to inflict blows on the Israeli forces.

'Abd al-Majid on Tabah Talks, Falasha Jews

PM161729 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 16 Jan 85 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "The 27 January Talks on Tabah Will Be a Test of Israel's Seriousness About Peace"]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stated that the Egyptian-Israeli talks on the Tabah problem scheduled to be held on 27 January will be a test for the new Israeli Government under the leadership of Shim'on Peres and will show the extent of the Israeli Government's flexibility and seriousness about peace.

The foreign minister emphasized that Egypt has no preconditions for the restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations and that it is fully committed to the fulfillment of its Arab and international commitments. He added that Egypt is beginning to resume its leading and pioneering activity within the Nonaligned Movement. He also stressed that Egypt rejects all attempts to cast doubt on the Sudanese leadership's patriotism.

The foreign minister yesterday attended the NDP's weekly open meeting, which was also attended by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, NDP Secretary General Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, some ministers, and a number of NDP members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council. The meeting dealt with several issues, especially Egyptian-Israeli relations, the future of Egyptian-Arab relations, the new economic measures, wages and incentives, bread, and the 5-year plan.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, in reply to a question as to why Egypt has not taken the Tabah case to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, said that it was unlikely that Israel would agree to such a step, which would have constituted an obstacle in the way of settling the issue in accordance with international law.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that Egyptian-Jordanian integration is no less important than Egyptian-Sudanese integration.

In reply to a question on Egypt's role in the Nonaligned Movement, the foreign minister said that Egypt has passed the crisis stage in its relations with the nonaligned states — which began in 1979 after the peace initiative — and that President Mubarak's participation in the New Delhi nonaligned conference gave a strong boost to the role played by Egypt in the Nonaligned Movement alongside India and Yugoslavia.

As to how much the Sudanese Government knew about the evacuation of the Ethiopian Falasha Jews to Israel via Sudan, the foreign minister affirmed that this propaganda is part of the fierce campaign launched by Libya and Iran to cast doubt on Sudanese leadership. He added that the Falasha evacuation process was shrouded in complete secrecy by the World Jewish Agency from the very beginning until the number of evacuees reached 25,000 Falasha Jews from Ethiopia.

He noted that there were misleading moves in the evacuation process in that the planes [carrying the Falashas] took off from Khartoum to Western Europe and not directly to Israel, which confirms that the Khartoum government knew nothing about the operation.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he expects the presence of the Falasha Jews will intensify the racist movement in Israel. The presence of Ethiopian Jews in great numbers will create many problems in Israeli society, he added.

He also pointed out that the latest information received by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry confirms that the mayor of Elat refused to admit Ethiopian Jews to the city.

President Mubarak Make Official Visit to Greece

For Cairo MENA and Athens coverage of the visit to Greece by President Husni Mubarak, including his meetings with Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and his banquet speech, see the Greece section of the 17 January Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Cairo Comments on Relations With Greece

NC161414 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Hasan Fu'ad Commentary: A New Step in President Mubarak's Calm Diplomacy]

[Text] President Mubarak today arrived in Athens on an official 2-day visit to Greece. The visit is in response to Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis' visit to Egypt last March.

No other European country has had, like Greece, links with Egypt based on the two countries' centuries-old civilizations. These civilizations have been influenced by each other and have developed strong ties between the two countries' peoples. Throughout history, the Mediterranean Sea has linked Egypt and Greece rather than separated them. Waves of immigration have moved between the two countries throughout various eras. These ties are not limited only to the distant past, but also extend to contemporary times.

We in Egypt do not forget Greece's stand during the crisis created by the big powers after Egypt retrieved its rights in the Suez Canal. It was the crisis that ended with the tripartite aggression on Egypt in the autumn of 1956. At that time, all western countries called back their pilots from the Suez Canal while the Greek pilots continued to perform their work alongside the Egyptian pilots, amidst the clouds of war gathering over the canal.

The Greek community still remains the largest foreign community in Egypt. This community has continued to live amicably in Egypt alongside the sons of our people. There are approximately 20,000 Egyptian workers living in Greece. They are serving the Greek economy and are hoisting Egypt's banner over a number of Greek cities. They are at the same time enjoying the right to reside, to work, and to get social security and insurance in accordance with the social security agreements that cover Egyptians residing in Greece and Greeks residing in Egypt. These agreements will be signed in their final form during the president's current visit to Greece.

Greece is the last European country to join the EEC, and its entry raised the number of member states to ten. Yet, it is still the only EEC country that is maintaining a delicate balance between the [diplomatic] representation of Israel and the PLO in Athens. Despite strong pressures exerted on the Greek Government, it has refused to upgrade Israel's representation until after the Israeli Government recognizes the Palestinians' full right and the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

A Socialist government led by Andreas Papandreou has been governing Greece since 1981. It is applying a national socialist program which is closely similar to the one we have in Egypt.

The Greeks appreciate Egypt's just stand vis-a-vis the Cypriot problem, which is similar to the Palestinian problem in many aspects, in the same way that we appreciate the Greeks' stands with us during our crises. They appreciate Egypt's support for the Cypriot people against any foreign intervention. Greece also believes that Egypt is the vanguard of the Arab people and that Egypt's pragmatic policy toward the Middle East problem and other international problems is much in tune with Greek viewpoints. The Athens government realizes that the Camp David agreements are the best for liberating Sinai and for enabling the Palestinian people to get their legitimate rights. Egypt's call for stopping the nuclear arms race is consistent with Greece's call to set up a nuclear-free zone in the Balkan peninsula.

President Mubarak's visit to Greece is a new link in President Mubarak's calm diplomacy to strengthen Egypt's relations with all countries in the East and West and to assemble more countries on the side of the Arab cause, as well as activating the Middle East problem for the sake of peace and of achieving the Palestinian people's aspirations to determine their fate and to establish their homeland over their territories.

Butrus Ghali Comments on African Issues

AB161005 Abidian FRATERNITE MATIN in French 16 Jan 85 pp 24, 25

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali by Michel Kouame of *FRATERNITE MATIN*: "The Falashas in Israel: A Humanitarian Act" — date and place not given]

[Text][Kouame] Mr Minister, what is the basic principle underlying Egypt's African policy?

[Ghali] The basic principle of my country's African policy is respect for the Addis Ababa charter, which we signed in 1963. It will be recalled that President Houphouet-Boigny was one of the founding fathers of this organization. The principles of the OAU are: noninterference in the internal affairs of African countries, respect of borders and of their inviolability, the peaceful settlement of inter-African conflicts within the African framework, nonalignment, the fight against racial discrimination, the decolonization of all countries on the continent, and the equality of all African states. These major principles of the Addis Ababa charter are the same as the principles underlying Egypt's foreign policy in Africa.

[Kouame] Your Excellency, the written principles of the OAU constitute one thing, and its concrete action constitutes another. It has faced problems in the past, and is still facing some today .... The interests of Africans are sometimes divergent. Can one imagine an OAU that disregards foreign ideologies?

[Ghali] I think that pan-Africanism, African unity, African solidarity, this need for "continentalism," this close association between African states all constitute an ideology, but the various political options must not constitute an obstacle to better cooperation between states on this continent.

[Kouame] Chad and Western Sahara are indeed two of the problems that have been the root cause of the OAU's difficulties over the last few years. Certain foreign countries, including African ones, have been intervening in these two conflicts, thus complicating all envisaged solutions. How does Egypt think Africa can solve such conflicts?

[Ghali] One must always refer to the major principles of the Addis Ababa charter. Even if borders were created during the colonization era, even if they divide up certain ethnic groups between two countries, and even if borders can constitute obstacles to the harmonious economic development of certain regions, one must nevertheless respect them. It is a principle that has been adopted and must be respected. One must therefore respect all the organization's principles to avoid many problems.

With regard to Chad, I must add that at the last summit held in Addis Ababa last November, a resolution was unanimously adopted, calling on the current chairman, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, and the Congolese president to prepare a new reconciliation conference, and we think that this conference could lead to reconciliation between the Chadian factions. Once this reconciliation has taken place, it will facilitate unity in Chad and enable that country to oppose foreign intervention better.

[Kouame] Western Sahara is another burning problem on our continent. In the opinion of some people, the Arab League should take up the question. Do you share the same view?

[Ghali] The problem was raised at the OAU, but it would be a form of escapism to throw the ball into the court of another organization. On this issue as well, we reached a consensus at the Nairobi summit which was supported by all the states. It called for holding a referendum in Western Sahara to enable the Saharan people to achieve self-determination. Self-determination rights are accepted by all African states. What

remains is for the referendum to take place. If it does take place, it will enable us to know on which side the Saharans want to be: whether they want to join Morocco or become an independent state. Everyone agrees with this, both Morocco and Algeria. One must therefore go back to the resolution adopted at the Nairobi summit.

[Kouame] The OAU admitted the Polisario Front at its last summit. Is this the beginning of a resolution?

[Ghali] The admission of the SDAR has not resolved the problem. It is probably the contrary that holds: the SDAR problem has resolved some of the OAU's problems. The SDAR problem will only be resolved after a referendum. That is our stand and we are in favor of negotiations and dialogue for resolving this problem that is threatening Africa's security. Now, you are going to tell me that it is an African and Arab problem. In fact, Arab and African problems tend to intertwine. What matters most is a peaceful resolution of the conflict, more than whether it is the United Nations, the Arab League, or the OAU that has to find it....

[Kouame] Your country, Egypt, for a long time has played a leading role in the Arab world. Today, because of its realistic policy, regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular, you are facing difficulties with some of your Arab brothers. What is your view today about the Arab world in relation to your country?

[Ghali] I think one must try to distinguish among the various diplomatic relations existing between Egypt and certain Arab countries. These have been reduced, but not suspended, to a certain extent. There are no longer ambassadors at the head of Egyptian diplomatic missions in certain Arab countries, but the existence of cooperation between people and the continuation of technical cooperation is more important. We have more than 3 million technicians and Arab specialists [as published] still working in the Arab world, although there are no ambassadors or diplomatic missions. We have doctors, engineers, university professors, and skilled workers. I have given you an enormous figure. About 3 million Egyptians work in the Arab world.

Conversely, although we have some difficulties in our relations with some Arab countries, we have thousands and thousands of students in Cairo coming from different parts of Africa and the Arab world and to whom we widely open the doors of our universities and grant scholarships enabling them to specialize in various fields. Furthermore, we have all these capitalist Arabs who come to invest in hotels, buildings, industries, and banks.... In light of this, we have to make a distinction between the political and diplomatic relations between Egypt and some Arab countries, and our economic and technical relations, which dominate the Arab world. Egypt, therefore, continues to assume its responsibility as the leader of the Arab world because of all the reasons I have just stated. My country's large population must also be taken into account. One out of every three Arabs is an Egyptian. Out of 120 million Arabs, there are 40 to 45 million Egyptians.

I would add another element that underlines Egyptian leadership in the Arab world. It is the special geopolitical and geographical position of Egypt, which is located between the Arab-African and the Arab-Asian worlds. It is the only Arab country that is at the same time Arab and African and that serves as a link between the two groups of countries.

[Kouame] A new element is added to the problem of settlement in the occupied territories. This is the problem of the Falashas. These black Jews have returned to what they call "the promised land." What is your country's stand on this humanitarian problem? I call it a humanitarian problem because it was due to the famine prevailing in Ethiopia that Israel has set up the operation.

[Ghali] I think that Egypt's opinion is that it is a humanitarian action. However, if the Falashas are settled in the occupied territories, this action would become a negative one. Finally, we talk a lot about the Falashas and their sufferings, but we should not forget about the Palestinian people's ordeal. They are living in refugees camps where the situation has been very difficult for 17 years. Yes, the Falashas' transfer is a humanitarian act, but this act should not overshadow the painful and serious situation of the Palestinians surviving in Israeli refugees camps within Israeli territory and around the bordering territories in Lebanon, Jordan, and elsewhere....

[Kouame] I will touch on a past issue by asking whether you think your country's establishment of relations with Israel resembles President Houphouet-Boigny's call for dialogue with South Africa

[Ghali] Yes and no. Yes, because we advocate dialogue, but no, because Israel is such a small country compared to Egypt. South Africa, however, is an extremely important state compared to its neighboring countries. If there are relations between Israel and Egypt, they can only be egalitarian relations, whereas relations between South Africa and its neighbors, like Lesotho or Botswana, can only be unequal and, therefore, much more dangerous. Thus, there is a difference in the relations between these two countries and those around them.

[Kouame] In solidarity with Egypt, many African states broke their relations with the Jewish state. Even if you call it a cold peace, today your country has established diplomatic relations with Israel. How will Egypt consider a move toward reestablishing diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv by a great number of African countries? It should be noted that Zaire and Liberia have already done so.

[Ghali] We have special relations that led us to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. We obtained the Israeli troop withdrawal following a peace treaty. The establishment of diplomatic relations was among the terms of the agreement. On the other hand, the Palestinian problem has not been resolved. There is a resolution adopted by the OAU that stipulates that African countries should not resume relations with Israel until a resolution is found to the Palestinian problem. Something similar was discussed during the last Addis Ababa summit.

[Kouame] It is the view in black Africa that our Arab brothers do not give us enough help, while at the same time they are wasting their petrodollars. How do you see this problem? Are the Africans wrong in expecting a lot from the Arabs, especially economic aid?

[Ghali] There will be a meeting in the coming months to discuss Afro-Arab cooperation. May I remind you that the basis for this cooperation was set in Cairo in March 1977. I myself went on a mission to the African countries to strengthen this cooperation. I would like to tell you one important thing. One must not underestimate the importance of this cooperation. Also, one must not underestimate the difficulties, because both Arab and African states are developing countries. The fact that a state is rich does not mean that it is developed. You can be underdeveloped and rich, just as you can be rich and underdeveloped. [sentence as published] Certain Arab states are rich but underdeveloped; therefore, the problem of cooperation between countries of the South is extremely difficult. We are only at the beginning of a new cooperation which must be encouraged, studied, and reviewed. It would be wrong on our part to condemn it when it has only just begun.

Zairian President Mobutu To Visit 26 Jan

NC161055 Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA) -- Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko will begin a 2-day visit to Egypt on 26 January. This was stated today by Zairian Ambassador in Cairo Ngandu Mwalaba, who explained that the visit is part of the distinguished relations between the two countries and of the exchange of views regarding African issues, the Middle East problem, and world issues.

The Zairian ambassador told MENA that this is a return visit for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit to Kinshasha last January.

Air Force Hits 'Large Maritime Target' Near Khark

JN161739 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,713 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The people's Armed Forces can prove their overwhelming superiority over the Iranian forces anywhere in the operational sectors, and at any time, and place the ignorant and backward rulers in Iran in a position that will allow them to face their impotence, division, and isolation, which are the logical results of the sins this regime has committed against mankind and its sublime values. The following is a roundup of the activities for yesterday evening and today:

Within the context of our legitimate right to sever the lifeline of the aggression, our Air Force carried out a successful raid against a large maritime target near Khark Island at 1650 [1350 GMT] today, scoring effective and accurate hits. Our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God, proving that the Iranian regime's only recourse is to extricate itself from the siege by submitting to right and to peace and its advocates.

2. Formations of our forward units dealt fierce artillery blows to selected enemy targets in the Maysan sector, scoring effective hits and inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment. In another area of the same sector, one of our units killed six enemy soldiers, silenced one heavy caliber gun, and destroyed one hardware stockpile.

3. One of our forward units pounded enemy positions, hardware, and mortar positions in the operational sector east of Basra with its weapons, paralyzing enemy troop movements, inflicting on the enemy losses in equipment and hardware, and destroying two observation posts. Flames were seen engulfing the enemy's hit positions.

4. Seven enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded in the northern sector of the battlefield.

5. One enemy soldier was killed, others were wounded, and one tank was damaged in the Central sector of the battlefield.

6. Escaping the Iranian regime's tyranny, new groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 January 1985

Siege of Iranian Ports Forces Cut in Oil Prices

JN161249 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Vienna, 16 Jan (INA) — Informed oil sources in Vienna said that Iran sold its oil at prices ranging between $21 and $19 per barrel despite OPEC's price of $29 per barrel. Citing world oil companies, the sources added that Iran's heavy oil is sold at $19-20 and the light oil at $21 per barrel.

In a statement to the INA correspondent, the sources said that the intensification of Iraq's military siege on Iranian ports, particularly Khark Island, has forced Japanese companies, as well as Shell Oil Company, to stop accepting Iranian oil. This is because the risk of Iraqi bombing has increased and the shipping and insuring rates have gone from $1.45 to $5.00 per barrel.

UN POW Committee Departs Baghdad 17 Jan

JN171049 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA) — The Iraq-Iran POW committee left Baghdad at dawn today following a weeklong visit to Iraq. While in Iraq, the committee members visited Iranian POW's and became acquainted with their conditions in the detention camps.

The committee, formed by a UN General Assembly resolution, contacted Iraqi officials and were briefed on the humanitarian services being rendered to the Iranian POW's by the Iraqi authorities.

Khomeyni Regime Called 'Weak and Isolated'

GF161213 Baghdad Domestic Service in Sorani Kurdish 1900 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Beloved sisters and brothers. Despite the Iranian regime's big words and bullying threats, we can clearly observe their internal disputes. From their aggressive slander, plans, and dirty tricks directed against our country, we can infer that the enemy has stumbled across an obstacle from which it cannot escape. Any attempt by the Khomeyni regime to free itself from its dark and gloomy maze seems suicidal.

In the fifth year of the war, and after 6 years of tyranny and hegemony, a few facts have emerged in Iran. In 1985, the Khomeyni regime is a weak and isolated regime. It is no longer the regime which Iranians used to applaud. Everything is deteriorating in Iran. Day by day we can see a weakness settling in at the various offices of the Khomeyni government in the military, political, and economic fields. The economic, political, psychological, and military problems of this regime are accumulating. The Iranian regime's education and cultural program, its internal hegemony, and its continued hostilities implemented through the war imposed on Iraq since 4 September 1980 are signs of weakness.

Although the enemy is weak and desperate, as manifested through its words and actions, we must not allow it to appear innocent of aggression and warmongering. Due to the nature of its animosity and possible retaliation for its degradation, we must be ever more alert to thwart any enemy hostilities. We must endeavor to completely subdue the enemy and coerce it to listen to calls for peace and justice.

Cooperation Memorandum Signed With Sweden

JN161301 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Jordan and Sweden signed a memorandum of understanding today to increase trade, as well as economic cooperation and exchange, between the two countries.

In a statement to PETRA, Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Jawad al-'Anani said that the visit of the Swedish external trade minister reinforced aspects of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. The Swedish delegation, headed by the Swedish external trade minister, left Amman today.

ICO Delegation Leaves After Conveying Messages

JN162002 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Amman — The ICO delegation left Amman this evening following a 2-day visit to Jordan during which it conveyed two messages to His Majesty King Husayn from Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, chairman of the ICO Permanent Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, and Turgut Ozal, Turkish prime minister and chairman of the Islamic Scientific Committee for Science, Technology, and Development.

The two messages dealt with implementing the scientific and technological plan adopted by the fourth Islamic summit. The plan aims at strengthening scientific and technological cooperation among the Islamic countries.

The delegation also met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Planning Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur; Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Jawad al-'Anani; and Dr Fakhr al-Din al-Daghistani, general director of the Royal Scientific Society. They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between Jordan and the committee and the possibility of establishing a number of scientific centers in some Islamic countries. The delegation led by Dr Mumtaz Qadi comprised Dr 'Ali Kittani, general director of the Islamic Institute for Science, Technology, and Developments; and Dr Sadoq Ben Jomaa, former Tunisian transport minister.

Iraqi Oil Ministry Official on Pipeline Project

JN171011 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jan 85 pp 1, 20

[Tawfiq 'Abid dispatch]

[Text] Amman — 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Samarra'i, Iraqi Oil Ministry under secretary, has said that Jordan and Iraq are awaiting practical guarantees to begin implementing the Iraqi-Jordanian pipeline — without the interference of a third party — from the U.S. engineering company, Bechtel, which presented a detailed technical and financial report on the project and on exportation facilities at Aqaba port. In an exclusive statement to *SAWT AL-SHA'B*, Al-Samarra'i said: These guarantees are important in order to begin implementing the $800 million project which will have an annual production capacity of 50 million metric tons of oil.

Al-Samarra'i adds: The company [Bechtel] gave us more time to obtain strong, firm guarantees, and when we receive them, we will make the appropriate decisions.

Al-Samarra'i pointed out that a joint committee from the Iraqi Oil Ministry and the Jordanian Industry and Trade Ministry held bilateral meetings at the ministerial level, and other meetings with the U.S. company, in order to discuss a number of technical and economic matters. It was decided to ask the company to present certain guarantees to operate the pipeline. He said: Talks with the company stopped 4 months ago. We are waiting for a reply to the financial conditions and guarantees. He noted that other guarantees were requested from international financing institutions that the pipeline would operate without obstruction or suspension.

Regarding the latest agreement reached between Jordan and Iraq in this respect, Al-Samarra'i said: We have reached a draft agreement defining the rights and duties of every side, as well as some technical and procedural matters. He stressed that viewpoints about this vital project were completely identical in a manner that serves the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

He said: The draft agreement regulates the Iraqi and Jordanian sides' reciprocal commitments for using the pipeline and continuously operating it throughout the project's period of operation.

In reply to a question, Al-Samarra'i said that his current visit to Jordan is not devoted to discussing the latest developments of this project, but is part of the visits exchanged between officials of the Iraqi oil sector and similar Jordanian institutions with the aim of developing bilateral relations and exchanging viewpoints on joint oil cooperation and the utilization of oil utilities and institutions belonging to the two fraternal countries.

He added that he will meet with Energy Minister Dr Hisham al-Khatib today and with Natural Resources Authority officials in order to review the oil cooperation agreements, indicating that he had earlier met with the minister of industry and trade and the minister of transportation and discussed these agreements with them.

In reply to another question, Al-Samarra'i said: Iraq has not officially asked to participate in the pipeline that is intended to be laid across Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman. However, if we deem it in Iraq's interest to contribute to it and if we obtain the consent of the Arab brothers, we will not hesitate to positively do so because as an Arab oil-producing country we certainly wish to accomplish such joint Arab projects. We are with any joint Arab effort to implement large projects that benefit all.

Regarding the oil situation in Iraq, Al-Samarra'i said: Despite the continuation of the hostile war launched by the Iranian regime, we are carrying out ambitious oil projects to increase flexibility in Iraq's ability to export and expand in the field of refining and gas industry. He added: The continuous exploration process and development of oil fields are also active and we have made great achievements even during war time — oil reserves have been increased and large hydrocarbonic concentrations have been discovered in new areas.

Concluding, he said: The development plans include several diversified projects such as roads, industrialization, irrigation, and agriculture, despite the difficulties facing us as a result of the continuation of war.

Cabinet Meets To Discuss Security Plan

Commanders, Leaders Summoned

NC161345 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The Cabinet adjourned its session a short while ago. The prime minister and ministers left the session to have lunch at the president's table. The session will be resumed at 1630 to continue discussion of the security situation, particularly the security deterioration in Beirut. It will also discuss the gaps obstructing the full implementation of the coastal plan, in addition to discussing issues pertaining to the military discussions in Al-Naqurah in light of UN Under Secretary General Brain Urquhart's discussions, and the Israeli Cabinet's decision to withdraw from the occupied territory in three stages.

Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and Army Chief of Staff Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham explained to the Cabinet the Military Council's visualization of the plan to reopen the Beirut-Damascus road and the Beirut-Tripoli road, as well as the council's view of the security situation in Beirut. Most of the morning's session was devoted to discussion of this situation.

The 12th Brigade Commander, Colonel Hasan Tut, explained the gaps still obstructing the full implementation of the coastal plan, particularly the completion of the Army's deployment as far as Al-Awwali.

A correspondent of the National Agency for Information has learned that the Cabinet has summoned some security commanders and political leaders to attend the afternoon session to discuss the security situation and the Army's deployment on the coastal road and in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Karami Announces Security Measures

NC162040 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Dispatch by unidentified radio correspondent at the Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] The lengthy Cabinet session ended 15 minutes ago. The discussions concentrated on the security situation in Beirut, particularly West Beirut, on the coastal and Iqlim al-Kharrub plan, and on the security situation as a whole.

Six measures have been adopted regarding the security situation in West Beirut, Prime Minister Karami announced a short while ago. They include closing down the party offices, with the exception of one main office for each party; collecting heavy weapons; withdrawing gunmen; and lifting the political cover from violators. This is naturally in addition to removing the remaining bunkers, barriers, and other measures.

It is hoped the security forces — the Army and Internal Security Forces — will now have the opportunity to control the security situation, which has recently deteriorated in West Beirut as a result of explosions and kidnappings which have claimed many innocent people. We will now hear the statement of Prime Minister Karami as he emerged from the palace.

[Begin recording] [Karami] The Cabinet decided to devote its lengthy session today to dealing with the security issue, particularly in Beirut, precisely, West Beirut, as well as with the coastal security plan from Tripoli to Al-Awwali. It did so out of the realization of the citizens' suffering from this insecurity which has gone beyond logical and acceptable bounds. It is no longer possible to accept or remain silent about these explosions, thefts, armed presence, and insecurity. Therefore, all these matters and their causes have been discussed and evaluated.

Furthermore, the discussions dealt with solutions that must be adopted to end this painful situation. The Cabinet decided to invite representatives of some of the main functionaries to attend the afternoon session, to resume the discussions, and consequently to agree on the measures and arrangements that must be adopted. I emphasize in this regard that there is unanimous agreement on what the situation is like, and consequently on what is needed to remedy and end it. Therefore, all have agreed on the need to lift the political cover from violators who break the law and undermine the interests of the citizens, and open the way for the security forces — Army and Internal Security Forces, and other forces — to discharge their required responsibility and exercise their role.

We are confident that within the coming hours, reassurance will return to the citizens because of the measures adopted, and that the implementation of the approved security plans will be continued within the framework of our objective to reassure our tormented people and kinsmen.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, is it possible to disclose these immediate security measures for Beirut security?

[Karami] As I said, there are some aspects of anarchy — armed men, the use of weapons, and the detonation of explosives in peaceful places as if the intended kill. Therefore, the measures are: closing the offices of the various parties, except for one main office for each party; collecting heavy weapons; withdrawing gunmen; removing the political cover from violators; removing the remaining bunkers and barricades, and other measures thus preparing the way for the Armed Forces to carry out their role in full; requesting the Beirut Security Committee coordinate with these forces in dealing with any gap tht may appear; and requesting the Army and the Internal Security Forces to assume their role in full.

[Reporter] There is another matter, Mr Prime Minister. This matter involves the security gaps in Iqlim al-Kharrub after the Army's deployment on the coastal line. What measures have been taken in this regard?

[Karami] Actually, the atmosphere was full of good intentions and high patriotic spirit. All have committed themselves to the agreed plan. There is also a special security committee for the coastal line and the Iqlim to assist in the implementation of all the provisions of this plan as soon as possible.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] I said within the coming hours. This is understood.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister. [end recording]

This was a recording of the statement Prime Minister Rashid Karami made after the conclusion of the session.

The ministers concerned — Ministers Birri, Joseph al-Hashim, as well as Prime Minsiter Karami, Minister Al-Huss, and the other ministers — will hold contacts with the various political and security commands, to follow up the implementation of the agreed upon measures to stop what has recently happened in Beirut and complete the implementation of the measures in Iqlim al-Kharrub. We hope that the security measures will be applied this time so that security may actually be restored to Beirut.

Bunker, Roadblock Removal Begins

NC171131 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee under Staff Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham, the Army chief of staff, discussed the security situation in Beirut and the question of eliminating bunkers and the recently erected roadblocks. The committee also discussed the means to complete the implementation of the security plan for the coastal line and Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Our correspondent has just reported that work is underway to remove the bunkers and hurdles recently erected in Ra's al-Nab'. Army bulldozers are now removing the roadblocks.

Views Expressed on Security Situation

Al-Hajj Urges Abidance to Plan

NC161255 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Beirut Military Area Commander Staff Brigadier General Muhammad al-Hajj has spoken about the security situation saying that the political parties must bring pressure upon their members to abide by the security plan so that it will continue to be successful. He said that since its inception, the plan has been a political accord, in accordance with which the politial parties pledged to implement the plan. He said that security is a joint responsibility among all parties and in the interest of all.

The duty of the Army — entrusted with ensuring the security of Beirut — is to serve, not to suppress the people. The citizens must maintain the security by laying their arms aside and dispensing with them.

Muslims Want Army Responsible

NC161546 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1509 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The Islamic Grouping today called on the authorities to take firm and decisive action to put an end to the sharp deterioration in security and economic conditions. Islamic figures meeting at Dar al-Fatwa called on the government to hand security responsibilities in the capital over to the Army and the security forces alone, and it urged the government to immediately remove all obstacles to free internal trade and economic activity on a normal level in all parts of the country.

Leaders of the Muslim community stressed that the continued presence of militiamen and armed elements along the coastal highway and in some sections of Iqlim al-Kharrub constituted a threat to the legal authorities; they called for the withdrawal of all armed men and full cooperation with the authorities in an attempt to restore the rule of law to all parts of the country.

PSP, Amal, Al-Murabitun Meeting

NC170817 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] A meeting was held last night by officials representing the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal movement, and the Al-Murabitun Movement for discussion of the security situation. The conferees stressed the need to ensure security for the citizens and the need to put an end to propaganda intended to create confusion among the people. They also agreed on the need to continue such meetings.

Birri Allays Fears on Israeli Pullout

NC170826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri declared yesterday that absolutely no fear should result from any Israeli withdrawal, whether comprehensive or partial. He urged the Lebanese, particularly the group that has cooperated with Israel, to end such ties and to confirm their Lebanese affiliations.

He added: The coastal highway constitutes an artery linking the country's heart to its brain. It is not an objective in itself, but a means of reaching the south and countering Israel's threats that, should they undertake a partial pullout, massacres such as those that took place on the mountain would be repeated. In my view, reopening the coastal highway will end the Lebanese war.

Birri continued: Moreover, we will be at the gates to the south and will consequently refute Israel's reiterated allegations about the Army's lack of power and its inability to deploy. The Army's arrival at Al-Awwali will defuse any potential inter-Lebanese explosives, whether involving possible massacres in Iqlim al-Kharrub or similar events in the south.

He concluded: I affirm that absolutely no such actions can take place in the south.

Communist Party Issues Statement on Israeli Withdrawal

NC171025 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 3

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Communist Party regards "the Israeli withdrawal decision as a victory of the steadfastness of the

national resistance and nationalist forces and of Syria's support of this steadfastness." The party warns the Lebanese regime "against yielding to the Israeli conditions for withdrawal."

Yesterday the Communist Party Political Bureau issued the following statement:

1. Israel's decision to withdraw constitutes an important development in the battle for liberating the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya from the Israeli occupation and its agents. It constitutes a victory of the Lebanese Nationalist Forces' steadfastness, and the friendly Syrian Forces' support of this steadfastness against Israeli blackmail and the exposed U.S. support for renewing the 17 May accord at the Al-Naqurah military negotiations. Likewise, it constitutes a sweeping defeat of the Israeli military and political objectives.

2. While Israel's dilemma is deepening, and it is forced to approve the withdrawal plan, it is seeking to translate this plan into an fulcrum for blackmailing the Lebanese stance and the friendly stances that support a full unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

3. There is no doubt that Israel will seek to use its withdrawal plan to stir up sedition and interfighting, and to show that the regime's forces are incapable of maintaining security so as to justify its continued occupation and interference in Lebanese affairs, and to achieve its expansionist ambitions in Lebanese territory and waters. Within this framework the "Lebanese Forces" and the regime's Phalangist group, particularly the president, will bear the responsibility for any negative repercussions that might arise from their adopting any stand in harmony with the Israeli withdrawal conditions, and which will achieve its criminal objectives for stirring up sedition and sectarian massacres.

4. The Nationalist Forces' urgent task in Iqlim al-Kharrub, the south, the mountain, and in Beirut, is to be prepared and vigilant, to close the national rank, and tomobilize its resources to prevent any developments in Sidon and other southern areas from which Israel will withdraw.

5. The Lebanese nationalist parties are called upon to continue to reject the Israeli blackmail and conditions, and to not allow U.S. interference in support of these conditions. It is demanded of them to firmly adhere to the decision on complete Israeli withdrawal and to the UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509, translating these in practice by supporting the national resistance and by ensuring the requirements for the steadfastness of the masses' rising in the south and in other occupied territory.

6. The escalation of the Lebanese National Resistance Front's operations and the masses' steadfastness in the occupied areas, which dictated the Israeli withdrawal decision, will inevitably foil Israel's maneuvering and conditions attached to the decision, and will force the Israeli enemy to pull all his forces out of all Lebanese territory, regardless of the sacrifices.

The Lebanese Communist Party Political Bureau greets the heroic struggle of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, a source of pride to our people, and carried out on the day the Israeli withdrawal decision has made 11 heroic operations against the occupation forces, killing or wounding many soldiers and destroying many vehicles. The continued escalation and development of these operations, and the transformation of the Lebanese National Resistance Front into a national liberation movement with active participation in its ranks, is the definite guarantee for victory.

The Lebanese Communist Party Political Bureau urges the various Arab national liberation movements' forces, and the friendly and allied forces in the world, to further support the struggle of our people and their nationalist forces to liberate their territory and restore their full sovereignty over it.

Al-Naqurah Talks May Resume 21 Jan

NC170638 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] UN sources officially confirmed yesterday that Israel and Lebanon have agreed to resume their suspended negotiations. The sources added that the negotiations might be resumed in Al-Naqurah on this coming Monday.

French Observers Return to West Beirut Posts

NC161550 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Sources at the Liaison Committee confirmed that French observers have returned to their posts in Al-Shuwayfat and Burj al-Murr. What happened today, the sources said, was merely a rotation of personnel.

Jihad Denies Responsibility for French Killings

NC170803 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 6

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization has denied any responsibility for killing two French observers in Burj al-Barajinah last Monday, describing those who claimed that it was responsible as liars.

The organization released the following statement yesterday: "In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Islamic Jihad organization, on behalf of brother Abu Ahmad, its official in Beirut, hereby states that the operation that was carried out in Burj al-Barajinah, in Beirut's southern suburb, was not its work. While declaring that those who made the claim on our behalf are liars and have no connections whatsoever with us. We also note that we are not opposed to such methods. Indeed, we support and encourage such operations."

Amal's Birri Telephones Al-Murabitun's Qulaylat

NC161246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] At the request of Amal movement leader Nabih Birri, Dr Husayn Yatim, member of the movement's Political Bureau,

telephoned from Paris Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun — who is in Toulouse — to inquire about his health. The two men exchanged views on the Amal and the Al-Murabitun movements in connection with the new developments in Lebanon, particularly in Beirut and in the mountain.

ASALA Announces 'Full Support' for Islamic Jihad

NC161454 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Beirut, Jan 16 (AFP) — The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) has announced its "full support" for the revolutionary actions of the Islamic Jihad organisation, in a communique received here today by a foreign news agency bureau.

Islamic Jihad, the communique said, had revolutionised "the oppressed Islamic peoples in the Arab world with its powerful strikes against imperialism and international Zionism, and by exposing the true reality of reactionaries led by Saudi Arabia."

"It's important to mention here," the communique added, "that the righteous struggle of the oppressed people of the Middle East has started with a new momentum because of the revolutionary activities of the Islamic Jihad organization and the liberation of western Armenia from Turkish fascism is a separable part of this righteous struggle." [sentence as received]

RFL on Terrorist Ring in Saudi Arabia

NC161857 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Informed sources say that Lebanese and Saudi officials are earnestly discussing the possibility that explosives, weapons, and ammunition, as well as car bombs are being transported to Saudi Arabia by terrorists disguised as truck drivers transporting commercial cargo between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

The sources add that officials in both countries have been exchanging information in this respect, particularly after Saudi authorities uncovered a terrorist ring working for Iranian Intelligence and the intelligence service of an Arab country. The ring had plans to send explosives to Saudi Arabia with trained terrorists ready to carry out suicide missions.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' Meets With UN Official

JN161850 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] This afternoon, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Brian Urquhart, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, who arrived in Damascus this morning. Al-Shar' also received Jean-Claude Aime, Urquhart's assistant, and Carl-Gustaf Stahl, the commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

The meeting was attended by 'Isam al-Na'ib, assistant foreign minister; Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah, and Fathi al-Masri, director of the international organizations department at the Foreign Ministry.

The talks dealt with developments in the Lebanese arena.

Khaddam Receives UN Official

JN171110 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received in Damascus this morning Brian Urquhart, UN under secretary general for special political affairs.

The meeting was attended by 'Isam al-Naqib, assistant foreign minister; Jean-Claude Aime, assistant to Urquhart; and Carl-Gustaf Stahl, the commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. Talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Rif'at al-Asad To Mediate Between Al-Asad, 'Arafat

PM161646 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Brother Rif'at's Words Thaw the Ice"]

[Text] It appears that Syrian-Palestinian relations will shortly witness a new trend toward an easing of tension following the recent party elections in Syria. Well-informed sources expect Rif'at al-Asad, following the consolidation of his position in the Ba'th Party leadership, to step up the dialogue with his brother President Hafiz al-Asad with the aim of mediating between him and the PLO chairman.

It appears that the Palestinian leadership places great hopes in Rif'at al-Asad's role in thawing the ice between Damascus and the Palestinian leadership.

Ba'th Congress Discusses Organizational Report

JN171200 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — The Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party continued its meetings at 1000 today. The comrades continued discussion of the organizational report presented by the party Central Committee.

Jordanian Students Cable Support to Al-Asad

JN160745 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following cable on the occasion of the Eighth Ba'th Party Regional Congress:

Comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; comrade chairman of the Eighth Regional Congress; comrade members of the Congress: Arab greetings in the name of thousands of students in Jordan and in the name of the preparatory committee of the General Federation of Jordanian Students. We are pleased to extend our struggle greetings to you and to wish your Congress success with the course of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which is the leader of the Arab liberation movement and the pioneer that strengthens our Arab masses' will for victory and liberation.

Comrades, Jordanian students in their universities, institutes, and secondary schools both inside and outside the country are following the proceedings of the party congress in Syria with interest. This is because it is being held in very complicated circumstances in which our Arab nation is exposed to plots and plans that are aimed at Arab history, culture, and struggle values and at undermining Arab steadfastness against and defiance of imperialist establishments and their affiliates in the Arab homeland. They are essentially aimed at the steadfastness of Syria under the leadership of its struggler leader, Hafiz al-Asad, an international Arab figure and the man behind Arab decision-making who preserves the honor and pride of our pan-Arab affiliation and strengthens our struggle against the Zionist enemy, as well as the imperialist and NATO camps.

We in the General Federation of Jordanian Students, the revolutionary tributary of our Jordanian national movement and an active member in the ideology, struggle, and action of the Jordanian national front, are fully aware of the plot being hatched by the ruling puppet monarchy in Jordan. Through our pan-Arab revolutionary consciousness, we are monitoring the movements of the reactionary alliance represented by the dirty quartet of Husayn-'Arafat-Mubarak-Saddam. We believe that this alliance was formed because of an American decision to try to kill the spirit of the national and pan-Arab awakening among our Arab masses in Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, and Egypt and to place our struggler Arab countries under U.S. tutelege and imperialist subservience.

But can the ruling monarchy in Amman stand up against the evolution of history? It is fully aware of who the Jordanian students are. In the 50's and 60's, the Jordanian student proved that he is the sharp sword against plots and pacts. If the monarchy has forgotten our history, we remind it of colleague struggler Raja' Abu 'Amashah, who cheered for Arabism, unity, and the Ba'th while drowning in her own innocent blood. We also remind it of colleague trade unionist leader Haqqi Khasawinah, who was martyred by the murderous henchmen of the regime and its agent intelligence service.

Jordanian students, who are versed in struggle and who adopted the ideology of the Ba'th Party and the parties of the Jordanian

liberation movement, are the revolutionary vanguard that awaits the day of the holy march in order to destroy the symbols of treason and to bury the plot and the plotters. History has taught us that nations do not age, that injustice liberates nations, that traitors are doomed to death, and that victory belongs to the Arab, because time, history, and the world's free men are with him.

Comrades, having discovered the existing strategy of understanding between the old and new Camp David partners, the masses of our people in Jordan place their absolute confidence in Syria, highly appreciate its pan-Arab stands, and consider its struggler leader Comrade Hafiz al-Asad the dream, the hope, and the ambition. We are with you and we shake every member's hand. We wish you a serious discussion because you constitute the foundations that have proven, through sacrifices, the party's ability to assume national and pan-Arab responsibility. Greetings to you from the General Federation of Jordanian Students. Victory to our Arab nation and immortality to its righteous martyrs.

TISHRIN Warns of Imminent 'U.S. Counterattack'

JN171027 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jan (SANA) — *TISHRIN* asserts that the announced Israeli decision on a phased withdrawal from Lebanon is obvious proof of the effectiveness of resistance and of the fact that the Zionist fascist violence cannot be deterred by conviction and negotiation, but by violence alone. In today's editorial under the headline "The Lesson and the Warning," *TISHRIN* adds: The timing of the Israeli decision, with the mounting reports of momentum for U.S. policy in the region, calls for vigilance and caution.

Referring to the coming visits to Washington by Husni Mubarak, King Fahd, and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, *TISHRIN* says that Reagan is beginning his second term with expanded dialogue with some leaders of the region — the dialogue which he could not hold in his first term, particularly with the Saudi king. Reagan is determined to give momentum to his Mideast policy, whose crux is the plan of 1 September 1982, because Washington wants to renew this plan, which is reeling from the painful blows dealt to it since Syrian fire power downed three U.S. helicopters in Lebanese territory.

TISHRIN continues: Washington knows that Syrian fire power then destroyed Shultz' plan to drag Lebanon into the Camp David framework. Thus, the May agreement was abrogated and Lebanon set out on the right path to regain its political health — the path of the Arab option. Washington also knows that Syrian fire power destroyed the opportunity to contain the Palestinian people's militant will within Camp David and to forge the Palestinian people's will despite the slogan of independent ddecisionmaking raised by 'Arafat.

TISHRIN says: Giving momentum to the U.S. Mideast policy and announcing the Israeli desire to escape from the blows dealt by the Lebanese nationalist resistance are a counterattack to the Arab homeland's uprising being founded by Syria.

TISHRIN concludes: Thus, we must lie in wait for the U.S. counterattack in the coming stage in order to defeat it.

AL-THAWRAH Urges Awareness of Israeli 'Conspiracy'

JN171122 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] In its comment today, the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* affirms that Lebanon is able to confront Israel's aggressive designs and that Israeli involvement in Lebanon has turned into an internal Israeli problem, instead of becoming an internal Lebanese problem. This development in the Lebanese arena was not incidental, but was a natural result of the success of efforts to form a national unity government on the one hand and of the increasing national Lebanese operations against the Zionist invaders on the other. Thus, Israel's forces and designs are squeezed between the hammer of resistance and the anvil of the Lebanese Government's firm refusal to make any concessions and its insistance on the unconditional withdrawal of the invasion forces.

AL-THAWRAH adds: From this premise, the Israeli withdrawal decision came as an attempt to get out of this impasse. This indicates that Israel was forced to adopt this decision due to the heavy blows of the Lebanese resistance and the exacerbation of Israel's crises as a result of its invasion of Lebanon. The continued Israeli occupation of the south, and the human and material losses Israel is suffering daily for its invasion, have become the main source of Israeli differences after the Israeli aggression was a base for the Israelis' agreement and consensus.

This obvious fact about the Israeli position makes it necessary to be alert to what Israel may do in order to cover up its failure and disappointment in southern Lebanon and also to cover up the results and repercussions of this failure inside Israel, especially after Israel has warned of the so-called danger of a massacre in the south after its withdrawal and after Peres has frankly declared that Israel will no longer be responsible for the fate of the Christian Lebanese communities after the withdrawal of its forces. This is a warning to all the Lebanese to be aware of an Israeli plan and conspiracy to instigate seditions in the south and to prepare for fresh massacres in order to imply that its presence in southern Lebanon is necessary, imagining that through igniting fratricide among the Lebanese it can raise the deteriorating morale of its forces and settlers.

The newspaper affirms that the Lebanese with all their various factions must face up to the current challenge and rise to the level of national responsibility by foiling Israel's designs and conspiracies. Through their national awareness and loyalty they can turn the victory they achieved through their steadfastness and through the heroic deeds and sacrifices of the Lebanese national resistance into a great accomplishment for national unity and for a Lebanon that is unified in both people and territory. It is a big test. However, with their militant experience and patriotism, the Lebanese people can pass the test successfully and score a new victory to be added to their record of struggle in resisting the Zionist invaders and expelling them from their territory.

17 January Al-Naqurah Talks Canceled

TA170528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Israel has offered to sell UNIFIL the military installations it is leaving behind in its withdrawal from south Lebanon. On this and other developments on Israel's plans to pull back in stages from Lebanon, reporter Tony Gadot:

[Begin recording] Israel has offered to sell IDF installations in Lebanon to the UN forces. By not having to dismantle and remove expensive and heavy equipment, the IDF hopes to save money and speed up the withdrawal. This offer was made to the UN under secretary general, Brian Urquhart, during his recent visit to Israel, and an answer is expected in the near future. No similar offer was made to the Lebanese, but Israel hopes for cooperation and coordination with the Lebanese, possibly within the framework of the Al-Naqurah talks.

Lebanon has yet to reply to the Israeli proposal, and the Al-Naqurah talks scheduled for today have been cancelled. The IDF is doing its utmost to ensure the smooth transition of the evacuated areas to Lebanese control, and the IDF liaison unit in Lebanon has stepped up its activities with this end in view. The Batir al-Shuf and Jubb Jannin crossing points over the Al-Awwali will remain open following stage one of the pullback. The IDF Logistics Branch is now preparing details of the planned withdrawal. [end recording]

Coordination Sought as Equipment Evacuation Begins

IDF Warns Phalange

TA161623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The IDF has already informed the Phalange leaders about the decision to withdraw from Lebanon. In the message, the IDF officers, among other things, asked the Phalange leaders not to take advantage of the situation in southern Lebanon following the withdrawal. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the IDF Logistics Branch has already begun organizing the evacuation of equipment from the northwestern sector. Most of the evacuation work will be done by the IDF, including the dismantling and transporting of the equipment. The new deployment line has still not been precisely determined, and the staff work concerning this issue will end within a few days.

Yazbik Asks for Coordination

TA161642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The representative of the Lebanese Forces Command in Israel believes that the IDF's withdrawal should be done in such a way as not to endanger the historic presence of the Christians in southern Lebanon, the lives of the various communities' members, and the ties between the communities. The representative, Pierre Yazbik, emphasized that if these things are not ensured, the decision of the government might bring about catastrophic results. He believes that the various phases of the withdrawal should be fully coordinated with the Lebanese Army, and that the timetable prior to the first stage allows for such coordination. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a brought this excerpt of Yazbik's comments.

Al-Jumayyil Seeks Involvement

TA170831 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by David Bernstein and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] *THE JERUSALEM POST* has learned that UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart sent a message from Beirut to the Defence Ministry reporting that President Amin al-Jumayyil now seeks to patch together a plan whereby the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL could perhaps dovetail into the Israel Defence Forces withdrawal operation.

Al-Jumayyil's agreement to send his delegation to Al-Naqurah next Monday is apparently a response to the proposal Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin channelled via Urquhart on Tuesday. Rabin told the senior UN official that Al-Naqurah should become the venue where Israel, Lebanon, and the UN coordinate operationally, rather than for the previously declared objective of negotiating.

Officials in Jerusalem believe that implications of the Cabinet's decision on unilateral withdrawal may be seeping through all the way to Damascus.

Uruqhart, who went there yesterday afternoon, will be back in Israel this morning for top-level meetings. He will see Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in Tel Aviv this afternoon, along with Dr Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israel ambassador to the UN.

Katyusha Fired From Jordanian Territory; No One Hurt

TA161152 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1129 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] A katyusha rocket was fired last night at the Jordan Valley from Jordanian territory. The rocket landed in an agricultural field and caused no damage. This is the sixth incident of katyusha firing from Jordanian territory in recent months. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] The story has repeated itself almost exactly in recent months. The whistle of the katyusha rocket was heard a short while before midnight and was immediately followed by the explosion made on contact. An initial investigation by security personnel in the area settlements indicated that no one was hurt and no damage was caused.

At dawn this morning, IDF soldiers began searches and a short while ago discovered the crater with the remnants of the 107mm rocket, fired from a makeshift launcher.

Many Jordanian legionaires can presently be seen feverishly combing large areas around the villages of Mukhaybah, Al-Kursi, Balad al-Shaykh, and Balad al-Basha in a demonstrated

effort to locate the launcher and the people who launched the rocket. There are only a few in the Jordan Valley farms who heard the katyusha fall.

Ze'ev Shor, head of the regional Jordan Valley Council, sent the defense minister telegrams after the third, fourth, and fifth katyushas. He demanded that the government take immediate action to stop these firing incidents. Minister Arens replied: We will not tolerate a situation in which settlements are harassed; you can rest assured that we are handling the issue. [end recording]

Defense Minister Rabin on Lebanon, Egypt

TA161649 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1615 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Beersheba, 16 Jan (ITIM) — "We will not be the policemen of Lebanon; we will leave this job to the Lebanese because this is not our duty. We do not want to have an influence on the kind of government in Beirut. We will not stay in Lebanon even 1 day more than necessary, and we will not risk the life of even one Israeli soldier to get Syria out of Lebanon." These remarks were made by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening in an address to Israel Bonds organizers from the United States, the guests at an Israeli Air Force base somewhere in the south of Israel.

"If the Syrians want to stay in Lebanon, let them stay there. Whoever puts a foot into the Lebanese quagmire soon sinks in it. If the Syrians want to continue their presence in Lebanon, let them enjoy it," Mr Rabin noted. He added that during their stay in Lebanon, the IDF forces came across an unexpected phenomenon — the acute confrontation between the Shi'ites and the Israeli forces. What is happening now in Lebanon is a war between the Shi'ites and Israel rather than between the PLO and Israel. If Israel remains in Lebanon for some time, Mr Rabin noted, the confrontation between Israel and the Shi'ites will intensify. A prolonged presence in Lebanon without any hope of reaching a political solution to guarantee security arrangements with the help of local Lebanese forces, left Israel no choice but to risk withdrawing from Lebanon, the defense minister said.

Mr Rabin pointed out that he had not promised in the past, and he would not promise in the future, that not one katyusha rocket would fall on Israeli settlements. In this context, he mentioned that a katyusha rocket had been fired last night from Jordanian territory into Israel, but that there had been no casualties and no damage had been caused.

The ITIM correspondent in the Negev reports that the defense minister told the bonds organizers details of his meeting with UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart on Tuesday. He said that without asking anything in exchange, he had suggested that the United Nations take over the area that will be evacuated by Israel in Lebanon in an orderly manner. Israel wants to evacuate the area without bringing about a massacre in its wake. However, if a massacre were to take place in Lebanon, the Lebanese Government would be directly responsible and the United Nations would be indirectly responsible for it.

Mr Rabin also addressed himself to Israeli-Egyptian relations. He said that bilateral relations must warm up. If everything attained by Israel and Egypt disappears, the defense minister believes that any attempt to make peace with any Arab country would be put off for dozens of years.

Rabin Assures Settlements

TA162022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] In a meeting with leaders of the settlements on Israel's northern border this evening, the defense minister said that the IDF will henceforth begin deploying in the Galilee to safeguard the well-being of the settlements. He emphasized that the IDF would not allow any terrorist organization to set foot in any of the areas it evacuates. Nevertheless, Rabin reiterated that he cannot promise that katyusha rockets would not fall.

Referring to the firing of a katyusha rocket last night from Jordanian territory at the Jordan Rift Valley, the defense minister said this proves that the war against terrorism must continue on all fronts. The Jordanians must make greater efforts to prevent firing incidents from their territory. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that most of the settlers attending the meeting spoke in favor of the Cabinet decision.

Nevertheless, a rally of inhabitants of Qiryat Shemona has been summoned for tomorrow evening in which the government will be called upon to ensure that the security situation in the north after the IDF's redeployment does not deteriorate. In anticipation of the rally, all the factories and schools in Qiryat Shemona will close at noon.

Peres: Galilee Security Possible

TA170732 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres last night expressed his confidence that we will be able to guarantee peace for the Galilee by means of a different strategy of self-defense. We do not need to maintain a permanent presence everywhere to ensure our security, Mr Peres said, adding that each stage of the withdrawal is long enough to allow the Lebanese and the Syrians to review their positions, and for us to offer discussing with them the security we need and the arrangement they need, as well as to understand that the two are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

[Begin Peres recording — in English] Let's not forget that we have never intended to remain on the Lebanese soil; that we do not have any claims on Lebanese territory; that we do not have any wish to play a role in the Lebanese policy; nor are we ready to become the policeman of the Lebanese life and war. We went to Lebanon for the plain and simple reason to stop the shelling and shooting on our settlements in the northern part of Israel. [end recording]

Shamir on Upcoming Talks With Egypt

TA162112 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2055 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Beersheba, 16 Jan (ITIM) — Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir addressed Herut Movement activists in Beersheba this evening. Referring to the upcoming talks between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations in Beersheba at the end of this month, Mr Shamir said that the issues to be raised are those of Tabah and the stationing of the MFO both in Tabah and in other areas disputed by Israel and Egypt, the question of Rafah and the continuation of the searches for the bodies of missing soldiers and the crew of the submarine *Daqar* [mysteriously sunk in 1968 reportedly in the central area of the Mediterranean]. "First and foremost, the purpose of the talks is to improve relations between Israel and Egypt which have cooled over the last few years," Mr Shamir said.

According to the vice prime minister, the peace treaty between the two countries did not give way to full peace and normalization. He expressed the hope that at the end of the upcoming talks with Egypt there would be a change. In his opinion, the Egyptians must make a gesture. "The Egyptians must return their ambassador to Israel and they should not ask for an additional price in exchange for normalization steps," he added. Shamir noted that the Egyptians cannot demand a withdrawal from Lebanon as a condition for a normalization in our relations. "The Egyptians know the reason why the IDF is in Lebanon, and they know that Israel is not interested in maintaining a permanent presence in Lebanon."

Mr Shamir called on the Egyptian Government to return to the negotiating table and to proceed with the Camp David process.

'Thaw' Seen in Relations

TA170556 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Talk show between anchorman Shalom Qital and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — live in the studio]

[Text] [Qital] Israel has received a message from Egypt on Lebanon. Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has approached Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with a request that he intervene to obtain a Lebanese-Israeli arrangement. The message's content has been brought to the attention of Israel's ambassador in Cairo, who rushed to report this to Jerusalem. In the last few days, there have been a few Israeli-Egyptian contacts. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, does the agreement on Lebanon herald any thaw along the southern border, too?

[Schiffer] There are signs of a thaw in the relations between Israel and Egypt. The cold peace is thawing as the dates for the Tabah talks and President Mubarak's U.S. visit approach. Over the last few days, Jerusalem has received signals on Egyptian gestures toward Israel. A report dispatched by Ambassador Moshe Sason from Cairo says that in a meeting he held in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, he was shown a message sent by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to President Mubarak, the gist of which is a request for Egyptian involvement in obtaining an Israeli-Lebanese settlement.

Meanwhile, in talks held here between the assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, Tzvi Qeydar, and Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Muhammad Basyuni, there has been an expression of readiness to make gestures toward Israel on a number of issues, in anticipation of the Beersheba talks over Tabah.

Thus, Egypt is prepared to repay a debt of $3 million for equipment left behind in the Sinai, after Israel pulled out of the area. This debt had been contentious. Egypt is also prepared to pay approximately $8,000 to each family that will be prepared to evacuate its home in Rafah, the area that was divided as a result of the agreement.

Furthermore, the Egyptians are also ready to establish a committee to pursue searches for the missing soldiers who were on board the *Daqar* submarine. One way or the other, the talks between the representatives of Israel and Egypt on Tabah will be held in Beersheba in 10 days, and will last for 2 days. This will be the place where all the disputed issues will be discussed.

The atmoshpere in Jerusalem-Cairo relations is currently better than before. In his talks in Jerusalem, Muhammad Basyuni expressed his government's satisfaction with the decision adopted by Israel on withdrawal from Lebanon — which increases the chances for a summit meeting between Shim'on Peres and Husni Mubarak soon. This will provide the background against which other disputed issues will also be handled in the next few days — such as day-to-day affairs related to arrangements for yacht sailing in Elat, and the Egyptians' request to set up memorials for Egyptian soldiers who died during the Israeli war of independence in the Negev.

Shultz Writes Peres on Lebanon, Economy

TA161748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state has congratulated the prime minister for Israel's decision to pull the IDF out of Lebanon, and has expressed the hope that the withdrawal will be coupled with the appropriate arrangements. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that these remarks are included in a message conveyed by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis to Shim'on Peres, a message which chiefly deals with economic matters.

Our political correspondent has learned that Secretary Shultz praised the measures adopted by Israel to restore its economy, but still adheres to the opinion that Israel should formulate a comprehensive plan. Political sources in Jerusalem this evening told our correspondent that this is the reason why the United States is willing to announce already that it is prepared to increase military aid, but it is not, for the time being, prepared to discuss an increase in civilian aid.

Kimche Urges 'More Positive Soviet Approach'

TA162110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche has said that Israel would welcome a more positive Soviet approach to the peace process in the Middle East. In a news conference in Geneva, Kimche stated that Israel does not know the meaning of the resolution made by the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers regarding Moscow's participation in the deliberations over the Middle East. However, the Soviet Union could play a real role in the region only after it resumes diplomatic relations with Israel.

Soviets Withhold Peres, MK Messages to Jews

TA170755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The Soviets have been withholding a cable sent to Moscow this week by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, addressed to Ina Bigun, the wife of prisoner of Zion Yosef Bigun. In his cable, Peres promised that Israel will do all it can on Bigun's behalf. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that other cables sent by 10 Knesset Members to the family of prisoner of Zion Aleksandr (Kholmianskiy) were not delivered. Meanwhile, it has been reported that (Kholmianskiy) has been transferred to solitary confinement under harsh conditions. He has been on a hunger strike for 4 months to protest his arrest; he is being force-fed.

The Riga police this week raided the homes of immigration activists and confiscated printed material.

West German President Accepts Invitation, Plans Visit

TA170834 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The president of the German Federal Republic, Richard Von Weizsaecker, will visit Israel during a tour of the region, at the invitation of President Hayim Herzog. The date of the visit has not been set.

Herzog sent the invitation in coordination with the offices of the prime minister and foreign minister. Weizsaecker is a long-time friend of Israel and has visited here several times. The last time was three years ago, when he was mayor of Berlin. He was also a member of the German-Israeli Friendship Society.

Knesset Votes Down Law of Return Change

TA161208 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] By a majority vote, the Knesset voted down the bill proposed by the religious factions to amend the Law of Return. Sixty-two Knesset members [MK's] opposed the proposal, 51 supported it, and one — MK Beni Shalita from the Likud — abstained. Among those who voted against the amendment were MK's Doron, Weinstein, and Tikhon of the Liberal Party; absent from the vote were eight MK's, including Ministers Sharon and Sharir, as well as MK's Ben-Elisar, Grupper, Uri'el Linn, and Meir Kahane. MK Rabbi Menahem Hakohen of the Alignment supported the draft amendment.

The Knesset was presented with three motions to amend the Law of Return. Eli'ezer Granot of MAPAM, and Shulamit Aloni of the Citizens Rights Movement, removed their motions, so that only the religious factions' motion was put to a vote by roll call.

Shim'on Peres responded on behalf of the Cabinet, and called on all the camps to maintain a dialogue among themselves prior to the decisive vote. Our generation, he said, is asked to find an answer to the problem of preserving the Jewish people under changing conditions, and in times of danger. A unifying, rather than divisive, way to do that should be found. The Law of Return, the prime minister noted, is more a Zionist law than a religious law, and has no effect on religious matters involving marital or personal status. Shim'on Peres emphasized that the Cabinet is not a religious authority, and wants to maintain the religious status quo.

Immediately after the vote, MK Ya'aqov Yosef of SHAS announced his resignation from the coalition. Our correspondent Hayim Zissewitz reports that the three other SHAS MK's did not join him, and have expressed their dismay with his decision.

Meeting in the Knesset building corridors, Interior Minister Yitzhaq Peretz and MK Menahem Hakohen exchanged vociferous accusations. Some MK's intervened, and used force to remove Rabbi Peretz from the scene.

SHAS To Remain in Coalition

TA161406 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1345 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The SHAS Knesset faction will not cause a government crisis against the background of the Law of Return being voted down in the Knesset today. In a talk with the Likud leaders, the SHAS leaders expressed disappointment about the failure of the vote, and placed most of the responsibility on the Alignment, which imposed factional discipline on its members.

Minister Yitzhaq Peretz told our correspondent Ilana Dayan that this issue is more painful and important than the issue of withdrawal from Lebanon. Rabbi Peretz said that in Lebanon we are talking about the lives of individuals, whereas here we are talking about the life of the entire nation. At present the SHAS people are trying to convince their colleague, MK Ya'aqov Yosef, to retract his resignation from the coalition.

On the same issue, MK Avraham Verdiger of Morasha will announce in a meeting of the Morasha faction this afternoon that he is resigning from the coalition; this will occur even before the Morasha institutions make a decision on the matter. MK Hayim Druckman told our correspondent Sha'ul Stav that he will recommend to the party's institutions that they leave the coalition, because the Likud did not stand by its commitment to recruit at least 38 MK's to support the amendment of the law.

Liberalization Steps Being Implemented in Territories

TA150937 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Dec 84 p 5

[Report by Yosef Tzuq]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' plan for liberalization in the territories is beginning to be implemented. Yesterday the acting commander of Judaea and Samaria, Colonel Freddy Zak, gave authorization for the establishment of a large regional hospital in Hebron.

The authorization was given to private entrepreneurs headed by Dr Hafiz 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah. The financial backing for the establishment of the hospital will be provided by Saudi Arabia and the United States through UNRWA, the aid organization active in the territories. More than $10 million will be needed for the establishment of the hospital.

The approval of the hospital's establishment is part of a large-scale plan to improve the atmosphere in the territories. The plan contains three sections — economic, administrative, and a section dealing with human rights. The plan was presented by Peres to U.S. Administration leaders during his visit to the United States. In the economic sphere, Peres is proposing enlarging the industrial infrastructure in the territories and the establishment of plants whose construction has so far been held up by the Civilian Administration. The establishment of a pharmaceutical plant, a regional hospital, and a regional bank is planned.

In the administrative section, Peres is proposing to gradually transfer senior posts from the Civilian Administration — posts that have up to now been filled by Israeli officers — to local inhabitants. This also refers to replacing the officers in charge of Ramallah, Al-Birah, Nabulus, and Hebron.

On the issue of human rights, censorship of some 1,000 books of the 1,300 that were banned for circulation in the territories has been lifted. Censorship restrictions on the Arab press have also been eased, but restrictive orders issued against Arab figures linked with the PLO have not yet been canceled, as Peres proposed in his plan to the Americans.

Darawshah Initiates Meeting With Deposed Mayors

TA161106 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Jan 85 p 6

[Report by Jerusalem correspondent Ya'el Admoni]

[Text] The deposed mayors from the territories — Rashad al-Shawwa of Gaza, Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, and Mustafa al-Natshah from Hebron — met early this week with MK [Knesset Member] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah and discussed the possibility of maintaining a dialogue between them and official Israeli personalities, in an effort to bring about an improvement in the standard of living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Among the other issues discussed, they mentioned meetings between Arab notables and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, ministers, and MK's. The initiative for the meeting came from MK Darawshah. In a meeting held in the Jerusalem branch of the Labor Party, Darawshah said that his activity toward establishing a peace movement of Israeli Arabs has won wide support among the Arabs in the country.

The secretary of the Jerusalem chapter, 'Imanu'el Zussman, said in the meeting that the Labor Party should make an effort to bridge the gap between the party platform and the actual attitude toward the Arabs.

Security Prisoners Riot in Prison Near Nabulus

TA161750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Prisoners rioted today in the central prison of Judaea and Samaria near Nabulus. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that all of the 850 prisoners took part in the disturbance. They began rioting this morning, inflicting extensive damage to the prison. During the riot, two members of the prison personnel — an officer and a warden — were injured and rushed to the Hillel Yaffe Hospital in Hadera.

The riot erupted because the prisoners objected to the transfer of several dozen security prisoners to the central prison from another prison in the territories. Large security forces were rushed to the prison and dispersed the rioters with tear gas. Tense calm prevails now in the prison.

Change in Bi'r Zayt Political Alignments Noted

TA150915 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Jan 85 p 16

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] There has recently been an important development in the West Bank — students supporting 'Arafat and students supporting Nayif Hawatimah have decided to run on one list against the other lists in the Bi'r Zayt University Student Council election in about a week.

Our correspondent notes that this development was preceded by cases of cooperation between the Fatah and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine supporters, when, about 3 weeks ago, they together distributed a joint leaflet at Bethlehem University. After distributing the leaflet, representatives of the Hawatimah supporters attended a rally of 'Arafat supporters at Baytuniyah College.

These moves in the territories may presage a realignment within the PLO organization, meaning Hawatimah may abandon his pact with Habash and initiate a new pact with 'Arafat.

ALGERIA

President Receives Call From Burkinabe President

LD170343 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received a telephone call from the head of the Burkina Faso, Captain Sankara. The two presidents discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interests.

Briefs

Six New Envoys — President Chadli Bendjedid received this morning the credentials of the new ambassadors of Mali, Democratic Yemen, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, and Zambia. The ceremony was also attended by Foreign Minister Dr Taleb Ibrahimi. [Excerpt] [*Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Jan 85 LD*]

LIBYA

People's Congresses Cable Tunisian, Algerian Leaders

LD162111 Tripoli JANA in English 1801 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Rabi Thani, 16 Jan, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The masses of the Basic People's Congresses which numbers nearly 2,000 congresses convening now in their 3rd normal session for 1984-85 sent cables to Habib Bourguiba the president of the Tunisian Republic confirming their commitments to the historic unionist declaration and demanding the implementing of what this declaration stated regarding the establishment of unity between the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses also sent similar cables to President of Algeria Chadli Benjedid the secretary general of the Central Committee for the Algerian Liberation Front and the president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria demanding the implementation of the unionist Hasi Masoud agreement between the two brotherly countries confirming that the Arab unity establishment is an inevitability to confront the hostile challenges facing the Arab nation.

MAURITANIA

Cooperation Programs With Libya Revived

AB162100 Paris AFP in French 1501 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Nouakchott, 16 Jan (AFP) — A Libyan delegation led by 'Abd al-Hafiz al-Zulaytini, minister of education, was received in audience on Wednesday by the Mauritanian head of state. At the end of the audience, the minister said that the Libyan and Mauritanian heads of state had given instructions to revive the joint commissions for cooperation and to remove all obstacles preventing the functioning of the cooperation programs. The Libyan minister said he was convinced that with the assertion of this political will, a new pace will be set in the strengthening of Mauritanian-Libyan relations.

Morocco

Tunisian Foreign Minister Welcomed by Belkeziz

LD161224 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tunisia's Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi arrived in Rabat a short while ago. He was met at the airport by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz.

Briefs

New Sudanese Envoy — Rabat, Jan 16 (MAP) — Dr Abdelouahid Belkeziz, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs received here Tuesday the newly appointed Sudanese ambassador to Morocco, M. Chedli Rih Sanhouri. The Sudanese diplomat presented to the Moroccan minister copies of his credentials. [Text] [*Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 16 Jan 85 LD*]

SUDAN

Soviet Ambassador Received by Al-Sayyid 16 Jan

JN161519 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Jan (SUNA) — People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz al-Din al-Sayyid received in his office this morning his excellency the Soviet ambassador in Khartoum. Al-Sayyid asked the Soviet ambassador to convey a message to Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The message contains an invitation to Kuznetsov to visit Sudan.

The Soviet ambassador praised the message that Al-Sayyid had sent in his capacity as IPU president to the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister following their recent meeting in Geneva and their agreement to discuss all issues pertaining to world peace, foremost of which are the Middle East problem and disarmament.

It is noteworthy that IPU President 'Izz al-Din al-Sayyid is due to visit the Soviet Union at the end of winter in response to an invitation from Mr Kuznetsov.

Finnish Foreign Minister Stops Over 16 Jan

JN171051 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (SUNA) — Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen made a stopover in Khartoum yesterday evening en route from Jeddah to Dar es Salaam. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman and some officials from the Foreign Ministry.

The two ministers discussed bilateral cooperation and issues of common interest. Hashim 'Uthman acquainted the Finnish for-

eign minister with the effects of drought and desertification in the country and the flow of refugees from neighboring countries. The Finnish foreign minister asserted his country's support for Sudan in the coming Finnish aid program.

SPLA Radio Says War To 'Eventually Spread'

EA161735 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Comrades and compatriots in the armed struggle: Good afternoon and welcome again to our weekly program "With the Battalions".

We now know that the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] is on tremendous progress to engulf the entire country [sentence as heard]. Within the past 10 days or so the enemy suffered severe losses during a series of engagements with SPLA forces. So far, fierce battles have taken place in all the three administrative areas of Bahr al-Ghazal, Equatoria and Upper Nile.

These developments in the current war in Sudan have significant aspects which point to the fact that the SPLA is now fully prepared to rid the Sudanese people of the exploiter and oppressors. Not only has the Khartoum regime failed to entrench itself in the southern part of the country: It has similarly failed in its attempt to detach the Equatoria people from joining the revolutionary struggle which aims at changing the existing system in the country. [sentence as heard]

As the war intensifies we become much more optimistic than ever before that the war will eventually spread to the west, east and northern Sudan. In this respect, the current war will shortly [words indistinct] engulf the whole country as stated in the manifesto of Sudan's People's Liberation Movement, SPLM.

It is equally true that the losses inflicted on the enemy are a quick response to the new year message by the Chairman of SPLM and Commander-in-Chief of SPLA, Col Dr John Garang de Mabior. The leader of SPLA-SPLM, commending the SPLA forces for their revolutionary struggle against the enemy, has directed them to weaken and reduce the ability of Numayri's army to inevitable defeat.

We are now confident that our revolutionary forces are highly conscious of all the historical facts which led to the present people's struggle. Therefore, it is all useless for Numayri, who on the one hand tries to bribe, and again tries to threaten on the other.

All the SPLA forces are fully aware that the emergence of this revolutionary armed struggle has nothing to do whatsoever with jobs and positions. The SPLM manifesto has made a clear distinction between SPLA-SPLM and other liberation movements in Sudan that were largely characterized by the desire for jobs and positions. It is important in this respect for Numayri and his stooges to know that our specific commitment is to overthrow the corrupt government for the benefit of the entire masses in the country.

Let us hope that Numayri is now convinced in his failure to bribe the leaders of SPLA-SPLM with positions and obstruct the people's struggle. The SPLA-SPLM leadership is built on the will and determination of the Sudanese masses. Therefore, Numayri has seen for himself that offering positions to bribe our revolutionary leaders has meant nothing but tampering with fire. (?It reveals) that Numayri has now opted for a military solution, as reports suggest. If this is true then he should not waste time uttering threats which he thinks would influence the SPLA to submit to his wishes.

We in the SPLA did not take up arms half-heartedly. We know what it means to fight. We believe that the rights of the Sudanese people will only be restored through sacrifice. Any other options apart from this is nothing but a short term solution.

SPLA forces must always remain watchful to check the enemy's moves. We have both the gun and will to fight for our genuine cause. We have accepted to be guided by truth and we must be prepared to die for it.

Briefs

Mexican Ambassador Presents Credentials — Khartoum, 15 Jan (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received here today the credentials of Jorge Palacios as Mexico's extraordinary ambassador and plenipotentiary to Sudan. [Excerpt] [*Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Jan 85 JN*]

Belgian Ambassador Presents Credentials — Khartoum, 15 Jan (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received here today to credentials of Roger Prues as Belgium's extraordinary ambassador and plenipotentiary to Sudan. [Excerpt] [*Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Jan 85 JN*]

WESTERN SAHARA

SPLA Attacks Show Failure of 'Wall Strategy'

LD161244 Algiers APS in English 1115 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Tifar'ti, Raso, Liberated Territories, 16/1 (APS) — The Saharan People's Liberation Army's (SPLA) recent attacks against the Moroccan positions showed "the complete failure of the wall strategy", and compelled Morocco to modify the initial layout of its fourth defense wall, defense minister of the SDAR, Ibrahim Ghali declared. He told newsmen on Sunday [13 Jan] at Tifar'ti in the Liberated Territories that the fourth defense wall, which was to start at the Ourkziz Heights in south Morocco to run along Algerian and Mauritanian borders, will finally be limited to the layout Ourkziz-Mahbes direct [as received], a location at about 30 km from South Haouzia. The SPLA unremitting attacks forced the Moroccan leaders into giving up the idea of tightening up Algerian and Mauritanian borders [words indistinct] in efficiency of these walls the SPLA can break through (wherever) it want".

In recent attacks, the SPLA killed 311 Moroccan soldiers, wounded 350 other and held two prisoners, Mr Ghali said adding

that a Mirage fighter was shot down on the same day and two other aircrafts the next day in an attack against the wall surrounding the region of Dakhla. "The Moroccan (Army) is harrassed and threatened all the time and loses heart. No Moroccan soldier will have respite or security before leaving the Saharan territory," the defense minister pointed out. A Saharan combatant pointed out that the SPLA cross the wall to collect information necessary for assaults against the wall and shelling.

"We have no military activities behind the wall but operations of sabotage and slay of settlers are carried out regularly. Furthermore, the Saharan minister [words indistinct] that by [words indistinct] "military aid and economic support to Morocco, France is getting directly involved in the war". "The Saharan people is particularly suffering from the military aide as it has a direct bearing on the conflict", he concluded.

ETHIOPIA

Australia Accused of Breaching International Law

BK170125 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0100 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Ethiopia has accused Australia of a flagrant breach of international law in trying to deliver famine relief supplies to provinces where guerrillas claim to be in control. A Foreign Ministry statement in Addis Ababa said Australia had violated the principles of noninterference in other nations' international affairs and respect for their territorial integrity.

It was the Ethiopian Government's first reaction to an Australian protest over the seizure by Ethiopia of relief supplies from an Australian ship.

The ship, the *Golden Venture*, was to have delivered 3,500 tons of wheat for a church charity in Ethiopia before going to Sudan to offload other aid for distribution in Ethiopia's rebel-torn provinces of Eritrea and Tigre. Guerrilla leaders claim the Ethiopian Government is not distributing food aid in these provinces from which thousands of famine victims have crossed into Sudan.

Briefs

GDR Drought Aid — Berlin, 14 Jan (ADN) — The freighter *Rhinsee* today left Rostock with a further GDR solidarity cargo for Ethiopia. The consignment of foodstuffs, tractors, blankets, and tents is part of the GDR's renewed m25 million aid to overcome the aftermath of the devastating drought in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia the GDR continues the operation of its aircraft, pilots, and flying personnel, which started in early November 1984 in support of Ethiopian measures to fight the consequences of the drought. [Text][*East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1802 GMT 14 Jan 85 LD*]

SOMALIA

Pact With RSA Denied, Ethiopia-Israel Exchange Cited

EA161414 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Today a spokesman for the Somali Democratic Republic Ministry of Information and National Guidance once again denied Abyssinia's fabrications against Somalia alleging that Somalia has concluded a pact with the South African regime. The Information Ministry spokesman stated that Somalia has not concluded any kind of pact with South Africa and said that the allegations were aimed at confusing world public opinion, as has always been the case.

He called upon Abyssinia to thoroughly examine the ugly deeds being perpetrated in its country instead of spreading such cheap propaganda. Some of these ugly activities include exchanging natives of Abyssinia for weapons from the Israeli Government, in order to intensify the oppression of the Arab peoples by Israeli troops, especially in Lebanon.

The Information Ministry spokesman added that the other motive for these fabrications is to hide from the world the fact that it has granted both military and naval bases to the superpowers and this in turn is the reason why the fires it has started are difficult to extinguish. These lies are also aimed at stifling the liberation movements in this region.

It is shameful for the Ethiopian Government, a member of the OAU that hosts the OAU Headquarters in its capital, to resort to activities contrary to the OAU Charter and colonize African peoples neighboring the organization's headquarters. The spokesman said that while the rest of the world struggles to help those still under colonialism in Africa and the Arab states, Abyssinia gives full support to the Israeli Government's continued oppression of these people which hinder the OAU's efforts to bring Africans and Arabs closer together.

The Information Ministry spokesman called on the OAU, the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Arab League, and all other peace-loving peoples to condemn the Mengistu regime for its activities which oppose the rights of the colonized peoples of African and Arab states.

RWANDA

Briefs

New Soviet Envoy — The National Revolutionary Movement for Development [MRND] Secretary General, Bonaventure Habimana, this morning received Mr Sokolov, the new Soviet ambassador to our country. Their discussions centered on relations established between our two countries and those existing between our two political parties, the MRND and the CPSU. Both sides expressed happiness over the satisfactory development of these relations which take resolute forms, notably through exchange visits and practical cooperation in cultural, educational, and technological fields. The Soviet diplomat promised to do his level best to strengthen Soviet-Rwandan cooperation through study or training scholarships for political training. The MRND secretary general wished him success in his mission and assured him of the support of the government, the MRND Central Committee, and the Rwandan people. [Text] [*Kigali Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 16 Jan EA*]

ZAIRE

AZAP on Recent Changes in Armed Forces

AB161530 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0811 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Editorial: "An Integrated Army"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 16 Jan (AZAP) — An army's value is not merely assessed by its equipment, but also and especially by the discipline and moral values of its soldiers. This is a prerequisite, the achievement of which has always been a preoccupation of the supreme leader of the Zairian Armed Forces [FAZ]. This explains the various reforms he has introduced in this important sector of the nation.

The double ceremony at which the nation honored the officers who have been retired after their good and loyal services and the handing over of power by the former chief of General Army Staff of the FAZ to the new one at the Kokolo Camp on Tuesday, confirms the desire of the supreme leader of the FAZ to perpetuate within it the cardinal virtues that have made our army more than ever the guardian of peace, territorial integrity, and the protector of the interests of the state and nation.

This ceremony also marked the last act of the procedure for restructuring the FAZ in its functions. This important restructuring, which followed that of territorial administration, was dictated by the same desire to inject some sanity into it and to reinvigorate all the sectors that contribute toward the country's development, an action that was undertaken nearly 2 years ago with a lot of sound and fury by the Executive Council.

The Zairian Army, which was created according to its creator's image and which cultivates the meaning and taste of discipline, patriotism, and sacrifice, each day witnesses an increase in the importance of its role among the civilian population, with whom it lives in perfect harmony. In fact, under the second republic, it was established that the soldier's mission was not only limited to the defense of national territorial integrity, but also to ensuring peace as well the persons and property. It also consists of participating in the social and political life of the country. As an integrated member of the society, the soldier is therefore conceived of as a man for whom general interest overrides personal interest. This aspect has always been stressed by the MPR founding chairman in his speeches to the soldiers. That is to say that even the choice by the supreme leader of the FAZ of men to fulfill other roles shows beyond doubt the aim of this restructuring.

Zaire, which has resolutely embarked on a program of financial and economic redress, needs an army adapted to current realities, since it reassures and provides a feeling of security to officials in charge of development.

Joint Meeting With Uganda Held on Border

EA161654 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Uganda and Zaire have expressed a desire to strengthen further the relationship that exists between the two sister countries at the common border. This was reached at a joint meeting of the two countries held in (Kasuli), Beni district, in Zaire.

Mr (Senyonga), leader of Uganda delegation, reaffirmed the governments' commitment to give the fullest meaning of good neighborliness and respect for each others' territorial integrity. He noted that Uganda and Zaire share so many things in common.

The chairman of MPR, who is also Zaire's district commissioner of Goma, Mr (Merika Johulu), said that Zaire upholds and honors the territorial integrity of all her neighboring countries and their institutions. He reassured the D.C. that nobody will ever use their soil to disturb the Government of Uganda.

During the meeting they discussed matters that are related to fishing and poaching along the common border.

GAMBIA

Government Announces Price, Salary Increases

AB161735 Paris AFP in French 1204 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Banjul, 16 Jan (AFP) — The Gambian Government has decided on a simultaneous increase in the purchasing price of the main agricultural products, the selling price of imported rice, and an increase in the minimum wage, it was officially reported in Banjul.

According to an official communique published on Wednesday, the purchase price to producers of 100 kg of peanuts has risen from 500 to 620 dalasis, paddy rice from 560 to 600 dalasis, and cotton from 672 to 700 dalasis. (4.37 dalasis equals one U.S. dollar).

The price of imported rice registered an increase of 20 dalasis and goes from 91 to 111 dalasis. Finally, the minimum wage was increased by 5 percent.

The increase in the prices of agricultural products is aimed at encouraging local agricultural production, official sources indicate.

GHANA

Briefs

Envoys Present Credentials — Four new envoys this morning presented their letters of credence to Mr Justice D.F. Annan, member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] at the Castle, Osu. They are the ambassador of Guinea, Dore Diale Driss; Ladislav Sobr from Czechoslovakia; Muhammad al-Balhan from Kuwait; and Hector George from Belgium. [Excerpt] [*Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Jan 85 AB*]

IVORY COAST

Ake, Ghali on Friendship Treaty With Egypt

AB161710 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, ends his visit to our country today. This visit has been sanctioned with the signing of a friendship and cooperation treaty as well as an agreement on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation. For Minister Simeon Ake, these agreements open promising prospects for the well-being of the Ivorian and Egyptian peoples.

[Begin Ake recording] By deciding to set up a joint bilateral commission for cooperation under the treaty, we mean to give a new impetus to the cooperation between Egypt and Ivory Coast and to the consultations between our two governments on issues of common interest. These two agreements, which are important by the diversity and richness of the areas they cover and which trace the institutional and legal framework of our cooperation, will help increase and diversify trade between our two countries. I therefore express my happiness with the signing of these agreements, which are a good example of South-South cooperation and which reflect the desire of our two countries to solidify our relations. [end recording]

To the Egyptian minister of state, who departs enriched with the wise counsel of the president of the Republic, who received him yesterday in Yamoussoukro, this action reaffirms the desire of the two countries to revitalize and consolidate their friendly and fraternal relations.

[Begin Ghali recording] We have similar political options. We believe in freedom and above all we believe in the importance of dialogue and negotiation. We believe that the conflicts and disagreements existing on our continent can only be solved through negotiation and dialogue. It is this common belief in negotiation and dialogue, in the importance of negotiation and dialogue, that has rendered our cooperation and our regular consultations easier and more important. [end recording]

Yesterday, Mr Butrus Ghali was received in Yamoussoukro by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, to whom he delivered a message from the Egyptian head of state, Husni Mubarak.

LIBERIA

Government Closes DAILY OBSERVER Newspaper

AB161725 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The independent *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper has been ordered closed by the Government of Liberia. Quoting a LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY release today, the national station LBS [Liberia Broadcasting Service] said no details were given for the closure of the paper. No reasons have been given; however, the agency said it will follow up this story.

MALI

Egypt's Ghali Arrives for Visit, Comments

AB162210 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Dr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, was welcomed this afternoon by Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, with whom he just concluded a first round of talks on bilateral cooperation and on African issues.

The Egyptian minister of state, who has a doctorate degree in international law, is 63 years old and is one of the deans of African diplomacy. Dr Butrus Ghali, speaking to Radio Mali, did not hide his sentiments on relations between Egypt and Mali [words indistinct]:

[Begin Ghali recording](?First, I have a feeling of) joy to be here in (?my own) country, because Africa is a single country for us Africans. Second, I am very happy to meet my brother, Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, the minister of foreign affairs. Third, the purpose of my mission is to present a written message from President Husni Mubarak to President Moussa Traore. We will later hold a meeting of the grand joint Mali-Egypt commission. [passage indistinct][end recording]

NIGERIA

Buhari Meets With U.S. Special Envoy Walters

AB161254 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today received in audience a special emissary of President Ronald Reagan of the United States. During the meeting, Gen Buhari and the special envoy, General Vernon Walters, discussed a number of issues of common interest to Nigeria and the United States.

Speaking with newsmen later, Gen Walters said that he delivered a special message from President Reagan to Gen Buhari and expressed America's interest in the measures being taken by Nigeria to revamp her economy.

Walters Comments

AB162145 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, received in audience today a special envoy of President Reagan of the United States, General Vernon Walters. Our state house chief correspondent, Mohamed Okerejo, reports on the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Okerejo] The meeting was the first major contact between General Buhari, as leader of the largest and most powerful black nation, and President Reagan, who leads the world's most powerful and [word indistinct] nation. It was an opportunity for both nations to narrow the wide gulf between them, which has been caused by their views on a number of issues which are at tangents to themselves — issues such as apartheid, world economy, North-South dichotomy, and disarmament. The details of the tete-a-tete were not made public, but given General Buhari's strong stand on a number of these pressing world issues, there is no doubt that he must have told it to Reagan's man exactly the way Nigeria feels about the cotton-wool [as heard] that America and Russia are pulling across the faces of the rest of the world, particularly developing nations, over their phoney arms talks. Gen Buhari also does not believe in North-South dialogue on economic matters, nor does he accept America's reasons for wanting to pull out of UNESCO. He has in fact asked America to reconsider her decision. Today's meeting was, therefore, an appropriate forum to restate Nigeria's stand and to make it clear that Nigeria sees through America's reasons for the pullout and taking her ally, Britain, along with her.

After the meeting, General Walters spoke with State House correspondents and answered my questions:

Sir, you just made us believe that the United States of America is very interested in forging close relations with Nigeria. But, incidentally, they stand on two very opposite sides of certain issues, and that is the question of apartheid in southern Africa. So I don't know if maybe you want to explain more?

[Walters] I will say briefly that the United States has on many occasions, and President Reagan only very recently, spoken out very strongly on the question of apartheid and our abhorrence for that doctrine. I myself do a good deal of speaking in the United States, and I have said, and I repeat, that apartheid is a doctrine that belongs in the 15th century, not in the last years of the 20th century. There is no question in the South African's mind how we feel about this. We certainly have made plain to them that we believe in the principle of the equality of all men. We don't believe God cares what the color of man's skin is. We believe that a human being is a human being and the South Africans are in no doubt as to how the United States feels on this issue. I know that for Africans, to whom the problem is clear and perhaps more burning, you will feel that we are perhaps not doing enough. I will simply remind you that we are, after all, the fourth black power in population in the world. Only Ethiopia and Zaire have a larger black population than we do, and it is a very substantial portion of our country. And it is not just the black people in the United States who abhor apartheid. Any man who loves justice cannot accept [words indistinct].

[Okerejo] Another question which is of great anxiety to Nigerians is the Umaru Dikko affair. (?He is now set) in the United Kingdom, and we hear he is hobnobbing with American officials to get a visa to stay permanently in America. What is the U.S. view on this?

[Walters] I am not personally familiar with the case; I can tell you that I am the ambassador-at-large. I have traveled to 106 countries in the last 4 years. It is difficulut for me to be up on every single question of this type. All I know is that if the Nigerian Government or Nigerian courts have anyone they want extradited from the United States, if they will forward the request to the American courts — because in the United States the government does not control the courts. We have an independent judiciary — we will be willing to examine those requests for extradition in the spirit of complete understanding. I am not personally, however, familiar with the Umaru Dikko case. I probably should have been before I came here, but I must plead guilty to not being as familiar with it as I should be.

[Okerejo] Earlier, General Walters summed up the reasons for his visit in this way:

[Walters] (?I came) to Nigeria in response to instructions from President Reagan to convey a message, his views on a number of subjects to the head of state, to express the interest that we have in seeing the success of the measures that Nigeria has taken to restore its economy, to reaffirm the desire of the United States for close and friendly relations with your country, which is the most populous country in Africa, and to express our interest in developing those relations further.

We discussed problems — not really problems — we discussed matters of common interest to Nigeria and the United States. Because Nigeria is a large power, we discussed regional matters and African matters and also world matters of U.S. policy, our relationship with some of the other major powers in the world.

[Okerejo] Those were the words and wishes of a top American functionary, and on their face value they are quite encouraging. But whether America means all that the [words indistinct] in promise is another matter entirely. [end recording]

SENEGAL

Country To Reduce Territorial Waters Limit

AB161403 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Dakar, Jan 16 (AFP) — Senegal plans to reduce the limit of its territorial waters from 150 to 12 nautical miles (280 to 22 kilometres) in compliance with the United Nations convention on the Law of the Sea, according to legislation currently under examination in the West African state.

The country is also to drop its claim to a 200-nautical-mile (370-kilometre) economic exclusion zone, but will maintain a claim to an offshore fishing zone of the same depth. Economic exclusion zones, which have been claimed by many of the signatories of the treaty, include claims to mineral exploitation rights over the sea-bed as well as to fishing rights.

The proposed changes, adopted at a cabinet meeting here, are now subject to approval by the Senegalese National Assembly (parliament).

TOGO

Law of Sea Convention, Other Bills Ratified

AB161655 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met this morning at the Presidential Palace under the chairmanship of General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding-chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the Republic. During the meeting, the council examined and adopted three draft bills and a decree.

The first draft bill authorizes the head of state to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea signed in Montego Bay on 10 December 1982.

The second draft bill authorizes the head of state to ratify the Pan-African Telecommunications Union agreement signed in Arusha on 8 January 1981. A specialized institution of the OAU, the union aims notably at harmonizing tariffs and positions of member states and at encouraging the creation of regional postal training institutions at a high level.

The third draft bill authorizes the ratification of the cooperation agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Togo and the DPRK in the post and telecommunications field signed in Lome on 11 May (?1982).

Finally, the decree adopted by the council concerns the renewal of participation of France-Cable in the autonomous International Telecommunications of Togo Satellite Company.

MOZAMBIQUE

140 'Armed Bandits' Killed in Gorongoza in 1984

MB161137 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] A total of 140 armed bandits were killed in Gorongoza district last year as a result of over 60 military operations carried out by the FPLM. As a result of these operations, about 400 families forced to live with the armed bandits were freed. They are now organizing their lives with the support of party and state structures.

The military commander of Gorongoza district, who was quoted by our Beira delegation, stated that the people freed from the armed bandits are assisting our forces through participating in combat operations, including carrying weapons and food supplies for the soldiers.

2 UK Citizens Killed by MNR on Road to Maputo

MB151902 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Two British citizens were murdered on Sunday morning by the Mozambican National Resistance [MNR] terrorists close to Mozambique's border with South Africa. The two have been named as Peter Gerald Hunt, 49, and his brother, Christopher Peter Hunt, 24. According to military sources in the town of Moamba, they were killed while traveling on the main road from South Africa to Maputo.

The Hunt brothers entered Mozambique at the Ressano Garcia border post at about 0930 on Sunday morning traveling in a Jaguar saloon. At the first checkpoint, Mozambican forces advised them to wait for three more cars traveling behind saying the journey would be safer in convoy. As the soldiers were speaking in Portuguese, it is possible the brothers did not understand. They left the checkpoint without waiting. Two kilometers later on they were shot by gangs of MNR terrorists, who had ordered them out of the car, and then dragged into the bush when they heard the sound of the following vehicles approaching. The terrorists opened fire on the third of the vehicles, but failed to stop it. The soldiers at the checkpoint heard the shots and went to investigate. They found the bodies of the two men at the side of the road. They had been stabbed to death with bayonets and the Jaguar had been looted and set afire. The attack took place just 1 km from the spot where the powerline to Maputo was sabotaged 17 hours later [words indistinct].

The bodies of the two brothers were brought to Maputo this morning. British Ambassador Eric Vines said the two men were resident in South Africa, possibly Johannesburg. They are not known as members of the British community here in Mozambique nor as regular visitors to the country. Mr Vines said he had been told that South African officials had warned the men as they were crossing not to make the journey.

Briefs

New GDR Consulate General — Maputo, 14 Jan ADN — Marcelinos dos Santos, Politburo member and secretary of the Frelimo Party Central Committee, described the opening of a GDR consulate general in Beira as a further step toward strengthening the traditional friendship between the peoples of Mozambique and the GDR. Beira, the second largest town in Mozambique, is the center of Sofala Province. GDR specialists work in Beira in the fishing industry, railways, and the education system. The Government of Mozambique granted the exequatur to Consul General Paul Stenzel. [Excerpts] [*East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1737 GMT 14 Jan 85 LD*]

SOUTH AFRICA

Spokesman Asks Investigation of Reports on Murders

MB171154 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs has said in Cape Town that allegations by a Mozambican newspaper that the murderers of two British citizens in Mozambique sought sanctuary in South Africa after committing their crime should be investigated by the joint South African-Mozambican Security Commission. He had been approached by the SABC to comment on a report in the Mozambican daily newspaper, *NOTICIAS*.

NOTICIAS quoted the administrator of Moamba district, Mr Alberto Bila, as saying that the rebels who murdered 49-year-old Mr Peter Gerald Hunt and his 24-year-old son [as heard] Christopher Peter crossed into South Africa after committing the crime.

In an editorial article, *NOTICIAS* said that the use by the RENAMO [Mozambique National Resistance] movement of sanctuaries in South Africa is a violation of the Accord of Nkomati between the two countries. The Foreign Affairs spokesman told the SABC that the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, had repeatedly given the assurance that South Africa was abiding strictly by the letter and spirit of the non-aggression pact.

SWAZILAND

Custom Fraud Final Report Implementation Ordered

MB161718 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Her majesty, the indlovukazi and queen regent, Ntombi, has through the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, directed that government should implement the ombudsman's recommendations of the final report on 13 million emalangeni duty fraud to the Customs Union Common Pool. This was disclosed by Mr Robert Mabila at a press conference at Enkhanini this afternoon.

He, however, stated that the Cabinet has decided that the report should not be made public at this stage, because it has to be first presented to the Custom Union's member states, which are Botswana, Lesotho, and the RSA.

He said another reason why the report should not be made public was the Cabinet's decision to take immediate legal action against both the companies and the individuals implicated in the scandal. The legal action contemplated includes the recovery of the 13 million emalangeni involved in the whole saga.

ZIMBABWE

Assembly Extends State of Emergency for 6 Months

MB161814 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1807 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Harare, Jan 16, SAPA — Zimbabwe's House of Assembly voted overwhelmingly today to renew, for a further six months from January 26, the state of emergency under which the country has been governed for nearly 20 years.

Fifty-nine MPs of the ruling ZANU (PF) party and white independents voted for it to continue and 12 MPs from the main opposition party, ZAPU, the conservative alliance of former Rhodesian Front prime minister, Mr Ian Smith, and the United African National Council led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, which held sway briefly in 1979, voted against.

It was the tenth time that the state of emergency has been renewed since independence in 1980. The country has been continually ruled under the emergency powers legislation since 1965, only days before Mr Smith, then prime minister of Southern Rhodesia, unilaterally declared the independence of the rebel republic of Rhodesia.

Speaking when he introduced the motion for reneweal, minister of home affairs, Mr Simbi Mubako, said there was a risk that "mercenary elements", who were training anti-government guerrillas, would infiltrate into Zimbabwe before the general election, which are likely to take place by April, and link up with opposition political party to disrupt the conduct of the voting.

"Peace has not been completely restored and in some parts of the country" he said, the situation was "unsafe and gloomy."

Mr Mubako also voiced concern about the guerrillas of the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] movement in neighboring Mozambique who crossed into Eastern Zimbabwe in search of supplies and recruits.

Since June 21 last year and January 3 this year guerrillas and bandits of various kinds murdered 58 civilians, stole 121,000 Zimbabwe dollars (R170,000) worth of property in 288 armed robberies and were repeatedly involved in clashes with security forces. In the same time 37 guerrillas were killed and 198 arrested, 19 were tried before courts of law and three of these are now facing death sentences.

Police To Offer Protection for Nkomo Rallies

MB161730 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The minister for home affairs, Comrade Simbi Mubako, has said police will offer protection to the ZAPU leader, Dr Joshua Nkomo, when he addresses his rallies. However, Comrade Mubako said he will not be given police protection.

Meanwhile, Dr Nkomo was today shown reports investigating the allegations by the ZAPU leader that his car was fired at in Masvingo last week. Forensic and ballistics experts, who examined minor dents on the car, said in their reports that what was described as bullet marks on the car could have been caused by stones.